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OCTOBER 16th, 1980 ★ VOLUME 15, NUMBER 42

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

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About the Cover—

A monster blue is brought to gaff off of Long Island's North Fork. See Gerald Hahn's article on fall blues beginning on page 14 of this issue.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **FALL FLOUNDER**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
Fred Golofaro, EDITOR
Rich Reina, PRODUCTION MANAGER

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EDITORIAL

★★★

Pass It On...

EELS AVAILABLE TO FISHERMAN

Dr. Robert Valenti called to let us all know that he's selling bait-sized eels at Multi-Aqua Systems, Cranberry Hole Rd., Amagansett. His price to fishermen is $1.75 per pound. Ordinarily this isn't unusual, except that live eels are often hard to come by "way out east" and because they can be a good deal more expensive at some retailers. You may want to stop there and load up for the fall run of bass.

MEETING ON L.I. SOUND DRAGGING

There will be an important meeting to discuss "Fishing Interests in Long Island Sound" this coming Monday, October 20 at 8PM. It will be held at Port Jefferson High School.

Assemblyman George Hochbrueckner will be present to hear the views expressed by commercial and recreational anglers on the subject of dragging in Long Island Sound.

JOHNSON OUTBOARDS OFFERS THREE ELECTRIC MODELS FOR 1981

Johnson Outboards, known for its Sea-Horse line of gasoline outboards, has three battery-powered outboards in its lineup for 1981.

The electrics, inspired by the popular bass tournament circuits, include models with hand and foot steering capability.

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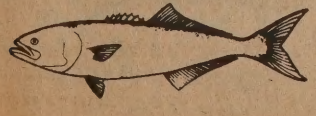
Johnson officials also note the corrosion resistance of their electrics, pointing to such features as splash proof switches, stainless steel ball bearings and swing arm cables, steering tubes of anodized aluminum, and non-corrosive bushings.



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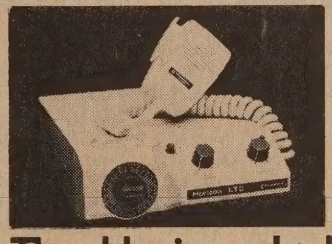

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NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

1979 FISHERY STATISTICS

The year past was a banner one for most American fishermen. According to Department of Commerce figures, U.S. fishermen recorded a record high commercial catch of 6.3 billion pounds valued at a record $2.2 billion. The catch was up only four per cent from 1978, but the value increased by twenty per cent! Eliminating the bunkers and anchovies caught for reduction and the shellfish, the edible finfish landings were 1,387 million pounds—probably about the same amount as caught by sport fishermen.

Record catches were made of flounders, rockfishes (West Coast), sablefish (West Coast), sharks, crabs, lobsters, scallops and squid. The shark catch has been climbing steadily in recent years, but it really exploded in 1979. The previous record of 9.7 million pounds set in 1978 was eclipsed by the 1979 catch of 22.6 million pounds. That's still small potatoes in terms of fisheries, but the trend to greater utilization of sharks is quite evident.

The foreign catch of fish within the 200-mile limit continues to decline. In 1979 it was 3.6 billion pounds, still greater than the U.S. edible catch from our own waters—but down 6% from 1978, and 29% below the average for the five preceding years. Some 89% of that foreign catch came from Alaska, and only 4% from the North Atlantic. The leading species was the Alaska pollack with 65% of the foreign catch, followed by Pacific flounders with 12% and Pacific whiting with 7%. Japan led the way in catch with 1.1 million metric tons, while the USSR was second with 282,000 metric tons. The Soviet catch will be way down this year since they were kicked out of the zone after the invasion of Afghanistan earlier this year. Since the U.S. doesn't claim jurisdiction over tunas, the figures for all species of tuna have been left out of the foreign statistics.

United States exports were way up, but the balance of trade deficit in fishery products widened even further. Export value was a record at $1,082,400,000, but imports also set a record at $3,811,300,000.

The latest figures for world landings are those for 1978. The world commercial catch that year was a record 72.4 million metric tons, up 2% from 1977. Japan was the leading fishing nation with 15% of the total, followed by the USSR (12%), China (6%), and the U.S. with 5%.

Prices paid to American fishermen rose sharply in 1979. The ex-vessel price index for edible fish and shellfish (1967 = 100) jumped to 432.5 last year, up 22% from 1978. Bunker landings made up 42% of the U.S. total, while shrimp was fifth in quantity but first in value. Salmon was second in both respects, while crabs held third and tuna fourth in both cases.

Cameron, Louisiana was the leading U.S. port in terms of landings, followed by San Pedro, California, Pascagoula-Moss Point, Mississippi, Empire-Venice, Louisiana, and Dulac-Chauvin, Louisiana. Bunkers were the primary species at each of these ports, except for tuna at San Pedro. In terms of value, the leading port was Dutch Harbor, Alaska, followed by San Pedro; Kodiak, Alaska, and New Bedford.

With massive landings of both bunkers and shrimp, Louisiana was way out in front as the leading state in volume. Alaska was second, with California third, Virginia fourth, and North Carolina fifth. However, when it comes to value, Alaska (salmon, king crab, etc.) is way out in front with $597 million. California is second, followed by Louisiana, Massachusetts and Texas.

The bluefish catch in 1979 was 13,207,000 pounds, well above the five-year average (1974-1978) figure of 10,856,000. The bonito catch was up dramatically from 18,692,000 to 30,721,000 pounds, while winter flounder declined slightly to 24,810,000 pounds—but were still over average. Mackerel were up from 3,558,000 to 4,463,000 pounds, and porgies dropped only slightly to a still above average 20,472,000 pounds. Sea bass were slightly below normal at 4,531,000 pounds, but weakfish increased by over nine million pounds to 30,579,000. Whiting were down sharply from over 51 million to a little over 35 million pounds. To no one's surprise, the striped bass catch continued to decline. The drop was from 4,497,000 pounds in 1978 to 3,492,000 pounds in 1979. The five-year average is 7,215,000.

New York commercial landings increased by about 1½ million pounds to 37,895,000, which hardly compares to the 335,000,000 pounds in 1980. However, the value of the fish caught in 1979 was $38,966,000—or over $1 per pound! The New Jersey catch increased by almost 26 million pounds to 189,314,000—still far short of the 540,060,000 pounds in 1956. Moreover, New Jersey landings, heavy on low value species, were worth only $53,034,000. Connecticut's commercial fishery is quite small, though it was up quite a bit to 6,456,000 pounds (valued at $6,900,000) in 1979.

The Cape May/Wildwood, N.J. area ranked 13th in the country for quantity landed with 58.3 million pounds. This represented a steady climb from only 39.2 million pounds in 1976. Point Pleasant, N.J. ranked 40th with 12.8 million pounds, but this was down from 15.7 million in 1978. In value, Cape May/Wildwood moved up to 11th with $32.2 million, while Point Pleasant fell back to 45th with $6.8 million—though this was well over the $5.9 million of 1978 on much higher volume.

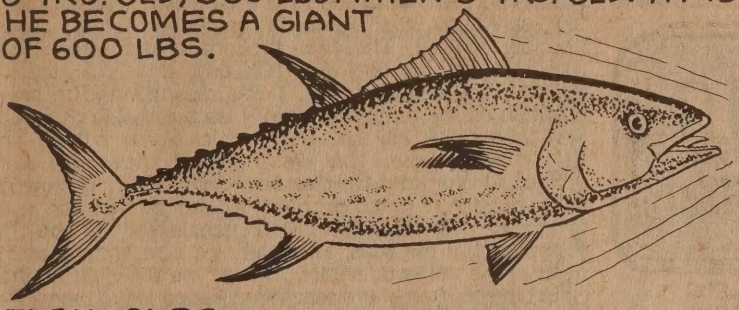
While I was a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, I had to repeatedly fight off attempts to drop the bluefish from management consideration because the commercial statistics show that the great majority are caught within three miles of the beach (in state jurisdiction). Of course, the commercial bluefish catch is small in comparison to the sport catch—and most of that is made beyond three miles. Nothing changed last year in respect to where the commercial bluefish catch came from, but I was amazed to find that almost half of the weakfish landings were from beyond the three mile limit. Does that mean that the Council will now take a serious look at that species?

According to preliminary figures, U.S. per capita consumption of commercial fish and shellfish was 13.3 pounds in 1979, down from the record 13.6 pounds in 1978. Recreationally caught fish and shellfish aren't included in this data, but NMFS experts figure that factor would add three to four pounds to per capita seafood consumption. Even at that rate, we're hardly the biggest fish eaters in the world. According to the United Nations, the Japanese in 1975 ate 164.7 pounds per person—while Iceland recorded 147.3 pounds, Portugal 111.1, Singapore 110.9, Hong Kong 108.7, and Norway 104.1. At the other end of the scale was poor Afghanistan with .2 pounds per capita, followed by Nepal with .4 and Rwanda with .7.

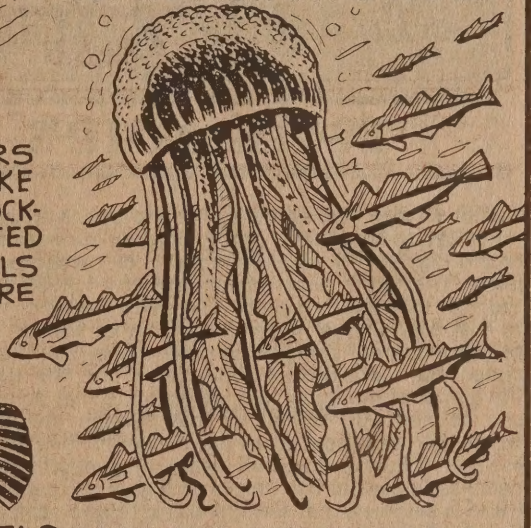
FRED'S FISH FACTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

AN AVERAGE BLUEFIN TUNA WILL WEIGH 8½ LBS. WHEN ONE YEAR OLD, 100 LBS. WHEN 5 YRS. OLD, 300 LBS. WHEN 9 YRS. OLD. AT 13 HE BECOMES A GIANT OF 600 LBS.

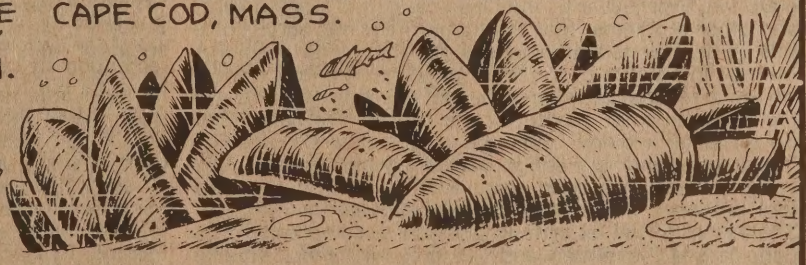


COD, HADDOCK & WHITING FRY OFTEN TAKE REFUGE FROM PREDATORS UNDER THE UMBRELLA SHAPED BODY OF LARGE JELLYFISH. THEY ARE NOT IMMUNE FROM THE PARALYZING POISON OF THE TENACLES AND MAY FALL PREY TO THEIR OWN PROTECTOR.

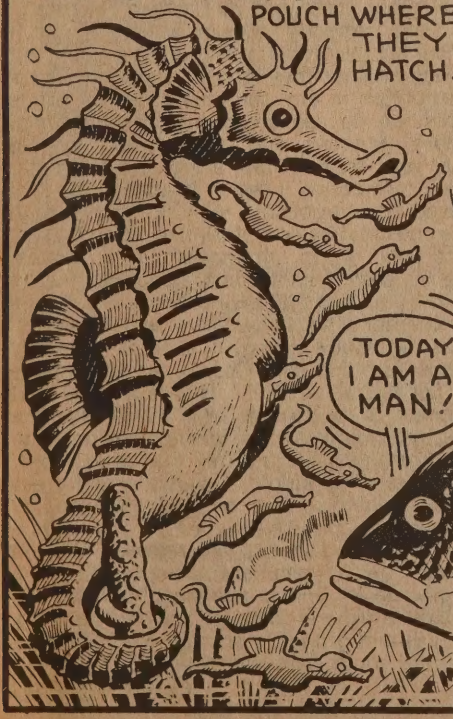


FLOUNDERS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT BY TRAWLERS AND BAIT NETTERS IN THE FRESHWATER OF LAKE ERIE WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTALLY STOCKED. THE SALTWATER FLATTIES WERE TRANSPORTED IN THE BALLAST TANKS OF OCEAN GOING VESSELS THEN UNKNOWINGLY RELEASED - AND THEY ARE SURVIVING.

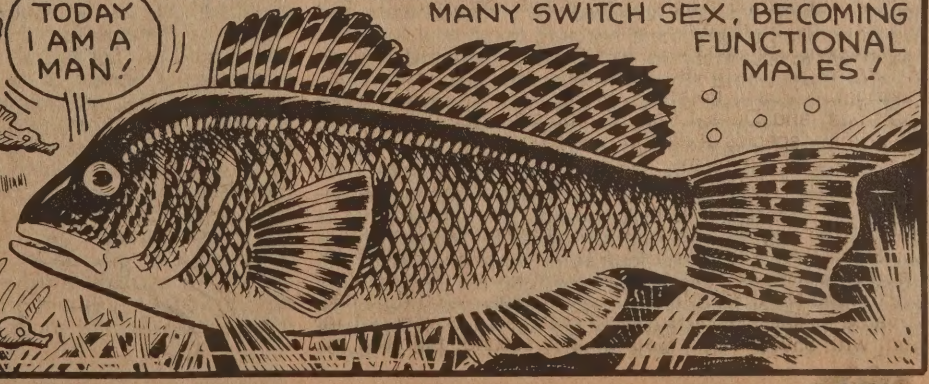
BLUE MUSSELS FROM POLLUTED WATER MAY CONTAIN *GONYAULAX TAMARENSIS*, THE CAUSATIVE AGENT OF PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING (*PSP*) IN MAN. THE POISON IS LETHAL AND QUICK ACTING WHEN CONSUMED BY MAN. THERE IS NO KNOWN ANTIDOTE AND NO SIGN OF ITS PRESENCE IN SHELLFISH. "*PSP*" OCCURED IN 1972, 1974 & 1976 FROM THE GULF OF MAINE TO CAPE COD, MASS.



THE MALE SEAHORSE HAS A PREGNANT LOOK BECAUSE IT IS. FERTILIZED EGGS ARE DEPOSITED IN HIS INCUBATION POUCH WHERE THEY HATCH.



BLACK SEA BASS, WHEN YOUNG, ARE MOSTLY EGG-PRODUCING FEMALES. WHEN 5 YEARS OLD MANY SWITCH SEX, BECOMING FUNCTIONAL MALES!



FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

TWO BEAUTIES

IN TODAY'S COLUMN, I'd like to respond to two letters received from our readers. One goes back to February 2, 1980 and unfortunately, the last page of at least a four-page letter was lost somehow and so I don't know who authored the letter. If anyone out there recognizes the contents of the letter, please write in so that I can give you credit for your contribution.

FEBRUARY AUTHOR. At this point, I don't believe that I should hold up the exposure of this letter, because it contains many interesting points and points of view. The letter was so long that it prohibits complete word for word reprinting; so I'll take the liberty of paraphrasing the letter. The author refers to our February 1, 1980 issue and the Fish Talk column called "Old Days: Better or Worse." In that column, we made the pitch that we can't blame better or poorer fishing on pollution alone. Specifically, we stated that there was less pollution in the late 1800s and the author of the letter took objection to that point. He or she pointed out, correctly, that sewage pollution was worse then than now; however, except for extreme cases, sewage pollution does not seem to generally result in declines in coastal fish stocks and, in fact, in many cases there is evidence that sewage eutrophication can enhance fish productivity. However, since World War II we have added to our pollution arsenal against Nature and in the final analysis it is the pesticides, toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and herbicides which seem to be more of a threat to fish stocks and the natural habitats than sewage because these chemicals can affect living things genetically as well as physiologically. Finfish can often **not** escape the chemicals, whereas a swim to another body of water can usually rid them of sewage-polluted water. The author also expresses thanks that, in spite of great pollution, World War II, the Depression, the Korean War, and other problems, that the human race has survived to this point. The establishment of environmental groups is seen by the author of the letter as extremely important if we are to reverse and overcome past mistakes and improve the environmental quality for the future. We agree that conservation and environmental groups have exposed key issues for us and have enlightened the general public. This enlightenment has been responsible for much progress that has been made towards an improved environment. The author of the letter then goes on to compliment The Long Island Fisherman and this column for our efforts. The issue of past versus present as a comparison of recreational fishing quality is a difficult one to resolve since there have been so many factors that have impinged upon it. These we have reviewed many times before and we don't need to take more space to do so now, but it is important to note that prior to the 1960s the public was left in the dark about environmental quality. Nobody, including governments, asked the right questions about the impact of pollution and technology on the environment and the fish and wildlife that lived in it. Thus, after about twenty years of public concern and the demand for improvement that has been associated with enlightenment, we can begin to look towards a tomorrow that is brighter in this respect. Another key factor is that fish are cyclical and it is often difficult to be sure whether or not the decline of a species is due to pollution or just a simple cycle. We can remember when the sudden disappearance of the weakfish was in part blamed on pollution; yet they returned in the late 1960s without significant changes taking place in the water quality of the bays in which they quickly established themselves. Much the same is being said today about striped bass, and perhaps there is a great deal of merit to that point of view. However, we aren't certain about that, especially since scientists have found very good year classes in the Hudson stock recently.

BLOWFISH? Dom Perrone of The Bronx wrote in some time back about blowfish. "I have a question to ask you. Whatever happened to the blowfish? I remember a few years back, when we used to catch them while we were flounder fishing. The first thought I had when I felt something on my line was, 'Oh boy, this is a nice big flounder.' Needless to say, I was disappointed to see a blowfish on the end of the line. I used to tickle them and hear them croak, say a couple of choice words to them, and then release them. That was before I knew they were edible. At one time I remember I was told that blowfish were good for nothing: not for chum, bait, or even fertilizer. The blowfish were considered to be the scavengers of the seas. However, we now know that the flesh of the tail is delicious. Today, the blowfish is often called the chicken of the sea. What happened to them? Did the netters, draggers, and other commercial fishermen wipe them out? Were their spawning grounds disturbed? Did the waters change to their dislike? I caught one blowfish last year—the first in three years. It must have been about two inches in length and I barely felt it on the line. I had to laugh when I saw the size of it. Needless to say, I released it by removing it from the hook as gingerly as possible so as not to hurt it." You are correct. The blowfish were once very abundant in our waters, but have not been plentiful since the early 1970s. Once again, we can search our collective souls and wonder whether or not humans are responsible in some way or ways for the decline. However, we must also remember that blowfish are cyclical as are all fish. It is hard to imagine how a fish can be so plentiful as to be a pest at one time and then seem to disappear. I, too, remember them. As a boy one could hardly put your feet down in popular bathing spots like Peconic Bay and Sunken Meadow since the young of the year blowfish would come over to you by the dozens to nip at your toes. This year, however, reports of modest catches of blowfish have come to us from Great South Bay and the Peconics. Thus, we have proof positive that the blowfish is not extinct and that although the population has been small for some time, it has the chance to rebound when circumstances permit. None of us can see into the future, so we'll have to wait.

GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR! Thank God for the tireless sense of humor possessed by Barbara Herrera of Brooklyn, New York. "Nobody has ever asked me, but it seems obvious that big television networks are missing out on a lot of business because they ignore fishermen. There isn't a single fisherman in any continuing weekly prime time show. What we do see are plenty of policemen, detectives, doctors, divorces, and sugar-coated juvenile delinquents. Last year, for example, every prison inmate, it seems had their own series. I feel it is about time that fishermen received equal publicity. Why not combine all the best features and create a new show like, 'National Ice Fishing.' To add a bit of zip, anglers will wear skates. When they race to reach their tip-ups, opposing players will be allowed to try to stop them. Of course we'll need a well-known commentator to talk-up the action, and it could turn out to be most exciting. Just think, Tuesday Night Ice Fishing with Howard Cosell! Another game show could be 'Let's Grab An Eel.' This is a show that might really appeal to fishermen who watch daytime television. The game would involve fishing, but not with rod and reel—contestants could use their hands and toes. Selected members from the studio audience would dress up in old-fashioned bathing suits (circa 1890) and stand by their respective wading pools. The shallow pools would be filled with muddy water and six live eels released into the pools. At the signal, the contestants would enter the pools and attempt to 'grab an eel.' He or she must hold onto the eels for five seconds in order to score ten points. They then drop the eel back in and grope for another one. The first three place winners could then compete for the grand

(Continued on page 24.)

In our initial story about Uncle Vito, we introduced you to what many gourmets consider a singular delight: a freshly-caught baked and stuffed striped bass. Borrowing on that recipe, we have applied it towards other fish as well, and have happily discovered that the results are as delicious as the original. So, today we are passing along another recipe that uses bluefish as the main dish.

We further painted Uncle Vito with a pretty dark brush also, but that's highly understandable because we

CAPTAIN'S TABLE with Andy Regina

BAKED STUFFED BLUEFISH

are dealing with a man of many mysteries. He has no visible means of support, yet files regular income tax reports with the IRS, lives very high on the hog, dresses impeccably at all times, and rides around in a chauffeur-driven limousine. He is still unmarried, but seems to enjoy the company of diverse, beautiful young ladies, though I have never seen him with the same girl twice, and though he has yet to bring one into our home whenever he pays us one of his rare visits.

His friends, also never introduced into our home, are also semi-mysterious, and almost all answer to Runyonesque nicknames, like "Jake the plumber," "Joe Black," and "Cosmo the barber." These euphanisms are probably throwbacks to the old days in east Harlem, when many of the old crowd had similar names, and nicknames were used to differentiate between the many Joes in the crowd. All Uncle's friends were always very polite, friendly, and overly generous, and each was also impeccably dressed in suit and tie, though they all wore

those pointed black shoes that seemed to be some kind of a trademark. Lately those pointed shoes have given way to Gucci loafers, and those old double-breasted suits to modern three-piece vested suits, and his old friends have been replaced by a younger faced crowd, but aside from that—nothing changes.

One thing they all have in common it seems, is their affinity for gourmet dining, and they think nothing of traveling many miles to visit a favorite restaurant, to partake of that establishment's specialties of the house. If these guys were truck drivers, you could spot the good dining spots by the number of rigs parked outside, like we pinpoint good diners along the highways—but the boys remain quite inconspicuous, and enlightenment comes by word-of-mouth.

My uncle loves fish and seafood, and used to frequent one spot in Little Italy, but several shootings over the past few years have persuaded him to take his business elsewhere. After all, why take unnecessary chances if you don't have to? Aren't innocent bystanders frequently hurt, accidentally? So, because Uncle Vito loves seafood, and because he still has not found another restaurant to his liking, Eileen tries to prepare something that will please him, when we know beforehand that he is coming to dinner. Most times he will just pop in at the last minute and take potluck—which also pleases him. But you know how women love to fuss when they know guests are coming; so Eileen got him to agree on a set date, and she made the following fish recipe for him. He loved it, and I'm fairly certain you will too. It is a two part recipe: one part for the specific stuffing ingredients and one part for the actual cooking instructions; but it is easy to make and a pleasure to eat. So follow along and enjoy!

Baked Stuffed Bluefish

Ingredients (Serves 3-4)

1 bluefish, about 5 lbs.
1/2 tsp. ground oregano
1 large onion, thinly sliced
2 medium-sized ripe tomatoes, sliced
1 tbsp. olive oil
1 fresh lemon, sliced
1/2 cup water
3 medium sized potatoes, sliced
1/2 tsp. table salt
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper

Stuffing Mix

1 cup bread crumbs
1 clove garlic, minced
1 sprig parsley, chopped
1 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 tsp. ground oregano
1 tbsp. olive oil
2 tbsps. water
Mix together and set aside.

Wash dressed fish in cold running water, drain and place three or four slits on one side of the body, spacing slits from head to tail. Sprinkle fish with salt, pepper, and oregano, fill body cavity and slits with prepared stuffing mix, and place fish in roasting pan, slit-side up. Sprinkle olive oil on fish, arrange sliced potatoes in pan around fish and sliced onions, sliced tomatoes, and sliced lemons around and on top of fish. Add water to pan, place in oven that has been pre-heated at 500° for about fifteen minutes, cook fish at that heat until fish starts to brown, then turn temperature down to 350°. Cook fish until flaky to the fork, or about forty-five minutes, then remove fish from oven.

Place fish on platter, slitted side up, and surround with alternating slices of potatoes, tomatoes, lemons, and onions, using sprigs of fresh parsley as garnish. Serve piping hot, with a tossed green salad, some crusty Italian bread, and any dry white wine of your choice. We opt for Bolla Soave, but only because it seems to be the one wine that we always enjoy, both with our meal and afterward, as we sit around and listen to Uncle Vito tell us all those tall tales of "the good old days." Or ARE they all tall tales? I wonder...??

In the unpredictable game of striper fishing, it's nice to know that there exists at least one sure bet. The fact that any bridge in "bass country" has its own resident population of linesides. Even in these times of striper scarcity, you can still count on some bass to be hanging around the barnacle-encrusted structures. In addition, other game fish such as weaks and blues frequent the same eddies and hide in the same shadows as

"HIGH ON STRIPERS"

Roccus. They often help to fill in the gaps between stripers which, in recent years, have become substantial.

I'll be the first to admit that I harbor a special fondness for bridges. It was under the Bayville Bridge at the tender age of eight that my addiction to stripers got its roots. Both my brother Steve and myself scored with a pair of husky schoolies on sand worms under the tutelage of Dad. My first striper ever, left an added impression when he swam off with my newly-acquired spinning outfit in his wake. After much confusion, a sopping wet, elated youngster dragged his prize ashore. Little did our father suspect the monsters he had created. From that night on, Friday and Saturday nights were gobbled up by sojourns to the Bayville Bridge.

A number of factors contribute to make bridges so appealing to stripers and other game fish in our area.

First of all, they are as natural a feeding ground as you can find. Harboring an abundance of food fish such as small blackfish, bergalls, crabs, eels, mussels, squid, bunker, sand eels, and spearing to name a few, Mr. Bass has a veritable smorgasbord from which to choose his next meal.

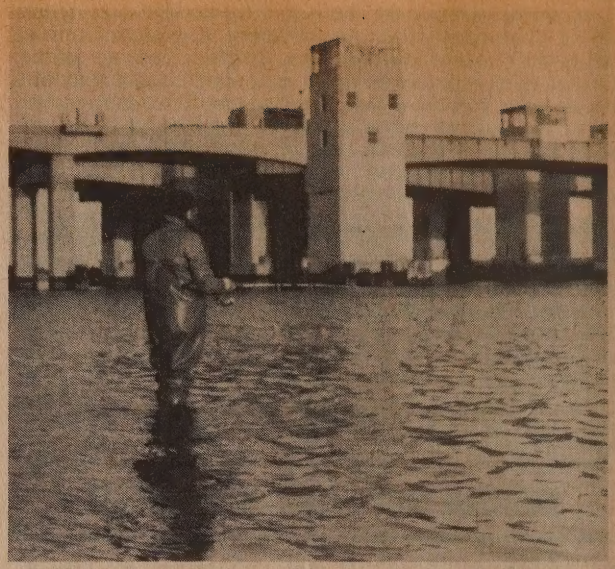
The same security of a bridge structure which causes bait fish to gather is also appealing to game fish. Holes and pockets created by swift currents, clusters of pilings, swirling eddies and rips, and the abutments themselves provide natural lairs which make for easy feeding. The structures around bridges also permit fish a reprieve from the heavy flowing currents which are so characteristic of bridge areas. Deep channels, which are synonymous to bridges, provide relief from disturbing boat traffic.

To striper hounds, the word "structure" is often the key to success. Whether it be the remains of a wreck, a single boulder, a channel marker, a bottom depression, mussel beds, or a moss-covered jetty, bass take a liking to such spots. Bridges, therefore, are the Rolls Royce of structures.

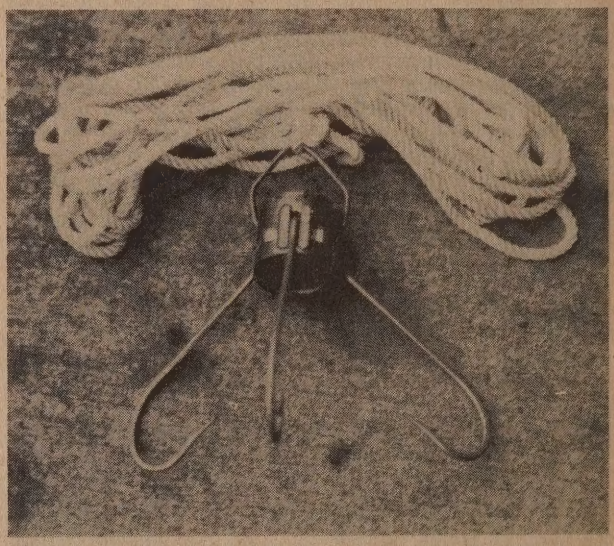
Now, I suppose you're wondering that if bridges are such a sure bet to house the game fish we spend so much of our time seeking, then why don't more anglers frequent them?

First and foremost is the problem of access. Unlike Florida, where nearly every bridge is blessed with a catwalk or ample sidewalk room from which to fish atop the bridge, many of the bridges in our area are marked by "NO FISHING" or "NO PARKING" signs. No Parking bans can sometimes be circumvented by having a loved one drop you off and pick you up at an appointed time. If this cramps your style, you can go my favorite route which is to tote along a bike and park your car wherever the nearest parking is permitted. If you're fishing in pairs, you can drop off your partner along with your equipment and enjoy an unencumbered bike ride under a moonlit sky.

The intricacies of this fishing is another prime reason there are so few converts to the bridge scene. Lure presentation is exacting and difficult for all but the



Standard surf techniques will produce along the banks bordering bridges but it's a whole different ball game from up on top.



The author's bridge gaff utilizes three razor sharp hooks which swing out on contact with a fish.

The tools for bridge fishing are basic and few.

experienced angler. When you do hook a trophy size striper, the odds are in his favor. Surfmen who claim big bass can't fight have probably confined most of their angling to long, open stretches of sand beach. Only after you've tangled with a cow that is determined to wrap your line around a piling or cut you off on a barnacle-covered abutment, can you appreciate how powerful the magnificent game fish is.

Once you have managed to subdue your fish, there is the problem of landing it. Some bridges are suited to leading your catch onto an adjacent bank where beaching or gaffing it is possible. Frequently, however, fish must be landed from atop the structure and a specialized bridge gaff is brought into play.

As I mentioned earlier, bridge fishing means putting in your time between 10PM and 4AM—although sunrise will produce fish on occasion. Fortunately, there still aren't too many anglers around willing to sacrifice a night's sleep often enough to learn the art of bridge fishing. All of these factors combine to keep down the ranks of bridge dwellers.

Where tackle is concerned, conventional reels loaded with thirty or forty pound test are standard fare for bridge work. There are some good reasons why conventional tackle should be applied to this type fishing.

First, it enables you to use heavier lines which are often required to stop big fish from cutting you off on the nearest obstruction. Also, your line is constantly being weakened by contact with the abutments and pilings. By the time you hook a fish, some sections of your line have already been reduced somewhat in strength.

Conventional gear allows you to better control the mad dashes and wild antics that typify the fight of fish hooked from bridges.

Another valid argument for conventional is that since the reel sits atop the rod—unlike spinning where the reel hangs down below it—fishing over the top of railings and fences which line some bridges, is made much easier.

In the rod department, a husky nine or ten foot stick with enough backbone to stop the determined rush of a big bass in its tracks is required. Both Lamiglas and Shakespeare make blanks well suited to the task.

Lure selection is very basic, with only a handful of artificials required. The real workhorse is the bucktail jig which is used exclusively by some bridge sharpies. These hairy leadheads will produce both with and without pork rind, although after June, the fluttering strip of rind seems to increase the effectiveness of the lure. The old Alou Bait Tail can still be found on some tackle shop walls and a few should be included in your arsenal. These rubber-bodied leadheads were designed specifically for bridge fishing by two outstanding anglers—Lou Palma and the late Al Reinfelder. Their Alou Eel and eel skin rigs have their moments around the bridges and at least one of the two should be toted along with the leadheads. These are the main tools of the man who plies his trade from atop the bridges.

When fishing the banks bordering these roadways, plugs can be brought into play. At times, big swimmers can be drifted out into the tide from up on the bridge, and in recent years, some anglers have taken to drifting live eels or bunker chunks from "up on top." These tactics produce under the right circumstances, but do not fit into the mold of bridge fishing when it comes to presentation and technique. It's best they be left as the subject matter for some future article.

Besides several jigs and a jar of pork rind, you'll need a bridge gaff to land your quarry in some cases. Forget about trying to find one ready-made in our area. Get hold of the largest weighted snag hook you can find and splice it onto the end of a substantial length of quarter inch nylon line. Make sure you have enough line to reach the water from whichever bridges you'll be doing your fishing. Next, attach a large snap to the eye of the treble hook. When a fish lays exhausted under you, open the snap and close it around your line so that the treble hook can be slid slowly down your fishing line to the fish. If you are using thirty or forty pound test mono, there is no need for a leader and your "gaff" should slide right down to the head of the fish where a sharp jerk on the quarter inch nylon will plant one of the trebles. When retrieving a gaffed fish, keep a lot of slack in your line and the reel in free spool lest the fish tears free of the gaff and falls on a taut line.

A small shoulder bag to carry lures, pork rind, pliers and gaff completes the basic requirements for bridge fishing.

Before discussing a few of the more common techniques applied to bridge fishing, let's discuss some of the terminology used by anglers who call these structures home.

The front of the bridge refers to the up-tide side of the bridge and it is here where you will most often spot surface feeding bass sliding in and out of the shadows. The back, naturally then, refers to the down-tide side.

Probably more important than the structures located around a bridge is the shadow line. This is the line of darkness formed by street lights atop the bridge, or, during periods when there is a lot of moon, by moonlight. A shadow cast by even a single pole has the potential to attract a feeding game fish. One of the great thrills of fishing is to watch game fish in their natural environment moving in and out of the shadows preparing to ambush the next hapless school of bait fish that comes along.

When presenting a lure on the front side of a bridge, the cast should be made at a forty-five degree angle to your left or right so that as you retrieve and the lure swings in the tide, it passes along the front edge of the shadow line for as much of the retrieve as possible. If you are casting to fish feeding on the surface, make sure you cast well enough ahead so as not to spook it. The sweep of the lure should be such that it passes a couple of feet in front of the fish. Be mindful, too, of the moving shadow you cast while working a bridge. This is often enough to make a wary striper head for cover.

The favorite tactic for the backside is to shoot your casts at an angle under the bridge and let your lure swing out and along the lighted edge of the shadow line. Bait fish entering the lighted area after passing through the darkness beneath the bridge are confused by the sudden light and make easy picking for any hungry striper lying in wait.

When fishing the top on the front or back of the bridge, a slow, steady retrieve which keeps your lure moving just below the surface works best.

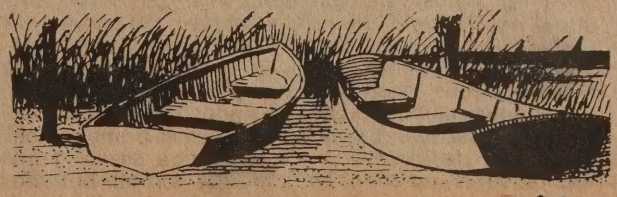
"Walking" your lure along the bridge is a technique which produces well, especially when game fish are lined up with their noses against the shadow line. Simply drop your lure down to the surface, play out several feet of line and walk slowly along the walkway with your rod held securely out over the railing. In effect, you are trolling the shadow line.

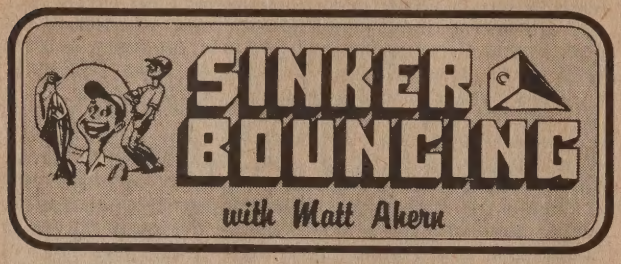
At times, fish will be feeding down deep. It is still possible to take them by angling your casts well riptide and allowing the leadhead to sink before retrieving with a slow, rhythmic, jigging motion.

When using jigs or eel skin rigs, no snap should be used as it is only one more connection that can be undone by the wild, thrashing fight so typical of game fish when taken from bridges. Tying direct also imparts more action to leadheads being retrieved with a jigging motion. Lures with swimming heads such as the Alou, require a snap to permit the freedom necessary for proper swimming action. Make sure they are strong and of good quality.

While each bridge has its own most productive tide, I think it can be safely said that most of the best action around these structures occurs during one or two hours on either side of a current change. Only by putting in the time will you be able to narrow down the hour or two of prime action that is characteristic of most bridges.

For the dedicated angler, bridge fishing offers all of the challenges one could ask for and some we could do without.





SALTWATER BULLDOG—Part Two

Last week's article gave reasons why I believe sinker bouncers would be more successful if they first learned the basics of blackfishing. (As an old-timer told me many years ago: "Learn to catch blackfish and you'll never worry about putting fish in the tub.") Of course, if you are a fluke or cod specialist, or even a flounder specialist, and should this be the limit of your interest in the fishing game, I'm sure what follows will not be of use to you. Most of us, however, dunk bait for whatever is available at the moment. We all know some fishermen are more skilled than others, but even these fellows wish at times they could be more successful. As for myself, I have been lucky to have been associated with the bottom fishing game for sixty years; yet I am seldom completely satisfied with my results. I always hope to do better "next time." Surely, for dedicated fishermen, hope forever springs eternal.

I occasionally receive letters from fishermen who tell me my methods of catching blackfish are all wet. I'm sorry about that, of course, and I am the first to admit they could be right. No one knows all there is to know about fishing; therefore, beware of fishermen who claim to have all the answers. The good Lord has never seen fit to dispense this knowledge. I'm sure if He did, we fellows would soon lose interest. Which is as it should be—for if we knew all those answers, where would be the challenge?

Therefore, when these fellows write and tell me they have better blackfishing methods than mine, I'm all for them. Most who write go into great detail about their sure-fire methods, for which I'm most grateful. And you may be certain these bits of information are tucked away for future use.

It matters not how outlandish or far out these methods seem—I try them. Some work, of course. And, of course, some don't. But this doesn't mean they don't work for someone else. But good, bad, or indifferent, there hasn't been an innovative blackfishing method sent that wasn't steeped in fish lore of long standing. Because they don't work for me means nothing.

However, those blackfishing methods I use certainly work for me (and have for a half century), and because of this, I feel no qualms when telling you about them. But occasionally, as noted, they don't produce for other fishermen. Perhaps their sense of touch is not as acute as it could be, or perhaps, because of that half century of blackfishing, mine is more sensitive; but I just don't know. It is quite possible these are the reasons those readers tell me I'm all wet. To all this I say only that most fishermen can depend on those blackfishing methods that follow.

Blackfish are not hard to catch, but they do demand more knowledge on the part of fishermen than most of our bottom feeders. I've always felt, too, that more know-how is required to locate blackfish than, say, for instance, cod. (I know full well that some veteran sinker bouncers will refute me on this.) But blackfishing is an art acquired only by long study or by trial-and-error. The good blackfisherman, the consistent producer, is a fisherman par excellance and we can all learn something from him.

But don't let this frighten you away from blackfishing. Fishermen with little or no experience take their share every day. Last fall I was blackfishing aboard the Captain Clark II when one of the largest blacks of the day was taken by a youngster eight or nine years old. However, those fellows who excel continuously are those who know their blackfish. And when they transfer this knowledge to other fish, they find those fish quite easy to come by. Which harkens back to the advice given me by that old-timer of my boyhood days: learn to catch blackfish and you'll never worry about putting fish in your tub.

There are two necessary requirements before one becomes proficient in the art of blackfishing. One, and of most importance, is the knowledge of exactly where and how to locate wily old chisel tooth; and two, how to get that hook where it will do the most good. We fishermen may get by with less than precise knowledge of the last requirement, but never without the first. Without that first requirement, we will never have the opportunity to use the second. And this is what makes the art of blackfishing so frustrating to many.

If you intend to do your blackfishing aboard a party or charter boat, you can forget that first requirement. The responsibility of putting you over a piece of bottom which will produce blackfish belongs solely to the skipper. And no one, and I mean no one, is going to beat these fellows at their own game. I have fished aboard party boats all my life and I never cease to be amazed at the knowledge and skill these enterprising fellows possess. It is often uncanny. But to a blackfish-producing skipper, it is all in a day's work.

Incidentally while we are on this particular topic, let me say that beginning fishermen will learn more about blackfishing in two or three trips aboard a party boat than from reading scores of articles on the subject. Let a word to the wise be sufficient. But for reasons of their own, many sinker bouncers are not interested in party boat fishing. It is for these fellows that this particular section is written.

Look for blackfish wherever there is obstructed bottom. Always! When boat fishing this can be in the form of rocks, ledges, or sunken wrecks; any obstruction which has been underwater long enough to become festooned with weed, mussels, or barnacles, and whatever else blackfish consider the piece de resistance—crabs, in particular.

Rocks and ledges are not too difficult to locate with the aid of an up-to-date chart, but I would forget about the wrecks. Wreck fishing requires special knowledge, not only for their exact locations, but tidal conditions, wind velocity and its direction must be considered for proper anchoring. Leave this branch of blackfishing to the professionals.

For shore fishermen, there are bridge abutments, pilings, bulkheads, decaying wharves, jetties, breakwaters, and anything of a like nature. All these will produce blackfish at one time or another. I put it this way because the food supply is often depleted in smaller areas and what may produce fish today, may not necessarily produce fish tomorrow. Therefore, shore fishermen should consider moving about until fish are located.

And this brings us to the most important—if not **the** most important—part of blackfishing. Your bait must be in the exact spot. Even should there be scores of blackfish feeding within five feet of your baited hooks, you might as well be fishing the Sahara for all the good it will do. Blackfish will not leave their chosen area no matter how choice your bait. Frustrating, sure, but crackerjack blackfishermen take it all in stride...and so must you.

Before we get to the number two requirement, I guess it's about time to take a quick look at the tools necessary to do the job. Because even small blackfish are extremely strong for their size when compared to other local bottom feeders, serious thought must be given to the selection of tackle. If you intend to do your blackfishing inshore, it is possible to get by with medium-weight spinning gear. But if your plan is to fish those deeper offshore areas (as when party boat fishing), be advised to use nothing but medium-weight conventional tackle.

It is important to use tackle that can not only handle the heavy sinkers required in deep areas, but it must also have the backbone to sink the hook quickly and get the fish started away from whatever obstruction you are fishing. This applies particularly when wreck fishing. Should you fail to do this, the chances are good you are not only going to lose your fish, but terminal tackle along with it. (More

about this later.)

Whichever of these two outfits you decide on, fill a matching reel with **good quality** twenty pound test monofilament. Don't skimp on this: quality line will save you riggings. Some fellows use lighter stuff in the deeper places, but with the twenty pound mono you at least get a fighting chance to salvage snagged rigs. And you will become snagged. In fact, if this doesn't happen from time to time, take my word for it, you're not blackfishing in the right place. Light line will part the instant pressure is applied. With the heavier stuff there's always a chance to recover some of your gear. Depending upon your fishing area, the mortality rate on hooks and sinkers can be high, so be sure to carry replacements...especially when out on your own.

Which brings us to hooks.

Ask any veteran blackfisherman about hooks and he'll tell you there is no hook that will do the job so well as the Virginia. Its short bite and offset hollow point and barb were especially designed for blackfish. It is the only hook to use for old chisel tooth. For inshore waters a #6 or #8 will do nicely; but for those crusty old bulldogs and for fishing offshore waters, I would use nothing smaller than a #5. Some fellows who specialize on big blackfish dote on the larger #4.

When fishing sticky areas, use one hook tied in about two to three inches above a suitable bank sinker. Your bait must lie on bottom—quietly! Blackfish are often spooky and fishermen who keep this in mind will be more successful. Although as with the mention of cod, I'll probably stir up some flack about this, too; but I can only tell you what works for me.

For less obstructed bottom, two hooks may be used: either as a hi-lo rig (for possible cod if you're lucky), or by tandem-tying two hooks and placing them about three inches above the sinker. To tandem-tie, simply fold the snell of one hook at its middle and run this fold through the knotted loop of the second hook. Then take this second hook and bring it through the fold, draw up snugly, and secure with a common overhand knot. Takes but seconds; but practice first.

For fall blackfish, there is only one type of bait to use: crab. These can be china-back fiddlers or green crab. Both work fine, but my preference leans toward green crab. Simply remove the top shell, break the legs off close to the body and, depending upon size, cut the bait into two or more pieces. Insert the hook through one of the leg holes and bring through to the other side. Make sure point and barb are exposed for instant hooking.

For china-backs, simply insert the hook through one side (remove the male claw if you wish). It is perhaps best to keep the hook inside the crab instead of bringing it through as with green crab. China-backs are fragile and easily crushed when heavy-handed methods are used; allowing the hook to remain inside does away with this problem.

Skimmer clam is good bait—if (and this is a big if) there is not an abundance of bergalls in the area. If there is, forget skimmers. Bergalls will go through this soft bait like a mowing machine. These bait thieves can be a nuisance, no question about that; but if there are none in your fishing area, neither will there be blackfish. Bergalls will attack crab bait, too; but it takes time to strip the hook, giving blackfish a chance to get at it.

Now we come to requirement number two: how to get that hook where it will do the most good.

One of the reasons beginning blackfishermen are not so successful as experienced anglers is because they flail away at every bite. The blackfish is a cautious creature, ever on the alert. You cannot get it interested in your bait if you strike back at every bergall bite. This takes some doing, I know, but it must be done.

Blackfish approach bait warily, nip at it several times with their canine-like front teeth and if all seems well, will then pass it to a second set located near the throat, called crushers. If you attempt to set the hook before this happens, it usually means goodbye blackfish. At best you will have a lightly lip-hooked fish. Should you find this happening frequently, put a brake on your reflexes.

When your bait is passed to the crushers, the hook is felt, and it is then when you will be rewarded with a strong yank. **Now** is the time to come back—hard! This heavy-handed method is needed to start the fish away from the obstruction. This is the crucial moment. Raise your rod high, hold it there and begin reeling. Once the fish is clear, you can slowly lower the rod for more comfortable reeling, but under no circumstances should you horse the fish. Let the reel's drag do the work. The fish will tire more quickly if you do. I have never had a hook pull out of a black's tough mouth, so don't worry about losing your fish because of that. But I've lost scads by allowing them to get back to the obstruction. Again, a word to the wise is sufficient.

And that's all I can think of now to tell you about the art of blackfishing. There is much more, of course, but these are the basics. Master them and watch those other bottom feeders go into your bucket.

November is the ideal month for blackfishing; your opportunity is at hand. The rest is up to you.

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LARGER MODELS ALSO AVAILABLE

BIG BLUES

by Gerald Hahn

Autumn is a time for grand finales, for Congressional elections, for the World Series, for green leaves turning fiery red, and for bluefish having one last fling before departing for another year. At no other time are there so many schools of large bluefish to be caught: ten to twelve pounders, teen-sized fish, and a few breaking the magic number—twenty. Actually, blues have been around all summer, but many were smaller then. And erratic as well, showing up for a few days in a mad burst of frenzy and then disappearing just as quickly. Summer was the time for overcrowded party boats, for tourists and tangled lines. But in the fall, anglers have all the room they need for the most consistent and best quality bluefishing of the year. For fishermen who like to end the season with a bang, autumn is the time of the cerulean chopper, the cobalt monster, the ultramarine gorilla, the azure alligator: in short, the big blue.

Although bluefish are taken from almost every port in Long Island, I like to fish the east end at this time of the year, off places like the Race, Pigeon Rip, the Ruins, Plum Gut, and Fisher's Island. The fish average ten to twelve pounds here and must be pried out of the bottom eighty to one hundred feet below, in rough currents. In this area, bluefish strike with the force of a fifty pound cod and then tear the water apart like a tarpon. And when a school of these king-sized marauders are concentrated beneath an open boat, all mayhem breaks loose as fifty pound test snaps like chewing gum and anglers shriek, "Fish on!"..."Mate!"...or "gaff!" Everything is big here—the fish, the tackle, rigs, lures, and bait.

With only a handful of people aboard, the fishing will be excellent once bluefish arrive in full force. But here as elsewhere, it pays to make several trips on a boat of your choice, to see the exact patterns in a specific locale. Furthermore, it will not necessarily be better with too few people fishing. In this area, small boat operators rarely do as well as open boats. You need enough baits on the bottom, not only to get the fish started, but also to hold them there. Once the fish are in, however, fifteen people may catch 75 to 150 lbs. of fish per man. Some really experienced anglers can pull in fifteen to twenty fish in a single day, but even novices catch a few fish and everyone is more than satisfied.

No matter whether the fishing is done by anchoring or drifting, bluefish stay close to the bottom here, and bait works best most of the time. Nonetheless, a well-placed ten or twelve ounce diamond jig, worked rapidly off the bottom will also take fish occasionally. For this kind of fishing, you need a good seven or eight foot conventional rod with plenty of backbone and a sensitive tip, as well as a high speed reel like the Penn Jigmaster, filled with forty pound test. A two foot shocker of eighty pound test leader is tied directly to the lure with a clinch knot and to the line with a blood knot. The jig is flipped out with an underhand cast and the rod tip is aimed at the lure's point of entry into the water to speed up its descent. As soon as the lure hits bottom, the reel is put into gear and retrieved rapidly, about five revolutions of the handle. If there is no pick-up, the lure is dropped back to the bottom again, and retrieved perhaps ten turns, after which it is brought all the way up rapidly. When blues are in the mood, artificials have several advantages over bait. First, the fish always hit a moving lure harder than a natural bait, and the feeling of accomplishment is greater. Next, the fishing is faster with lures—no time wasted baiting up every minute. Finally, an artificial will reach bottom faster than a baited rig, especially with a high speed reel and lighter line. I have seen accomplished jiggers take two fish on a single short drift, while those with bait were content to catch one blue, at best. This is no mean feat from the awkwardly high decks of an open boat.

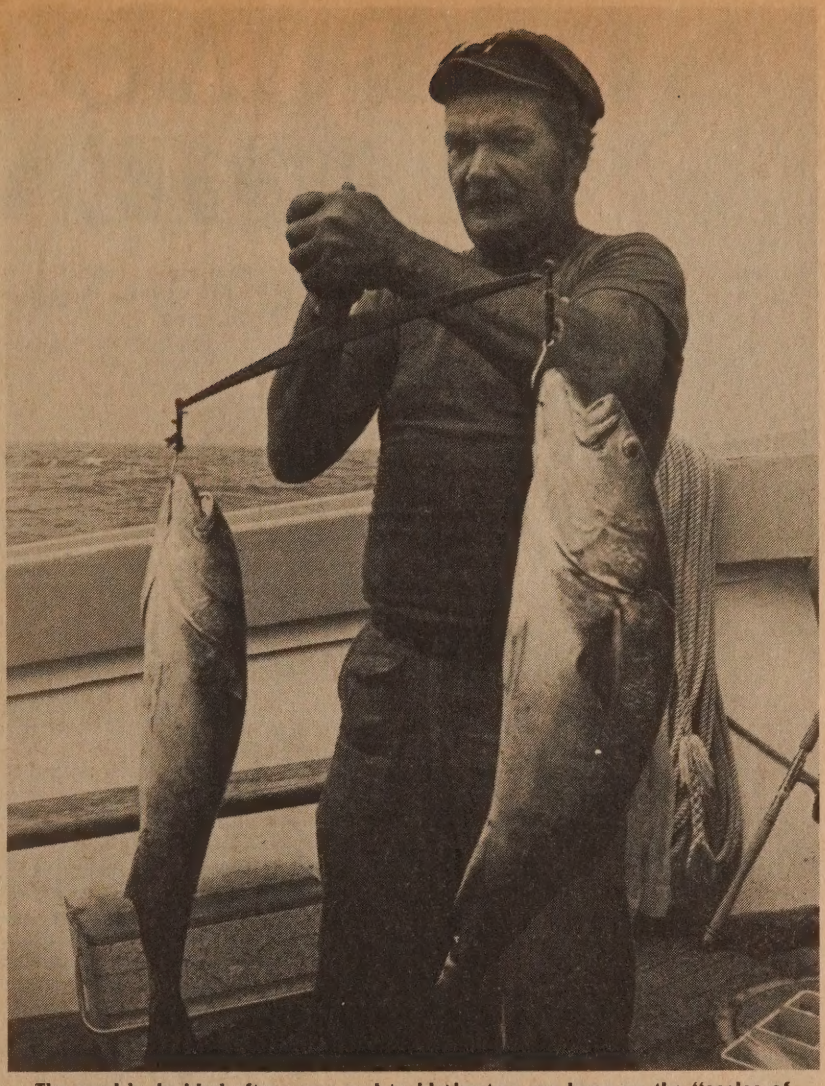
Still, bait is a more consistent producer here, and for this kind of fishing, rental tackle is adequate: a stiff six or seven foot conventional rod with a Penn 60 or 65, filled with fifty pound test. Slow, strong, and steady, this kind of equipment does the job best when dealing with a baited rig that may weigh two pounds, or more. The rig is a chain and drail attached to the main line with a clinch knot through the eye of a twelve ounce trolling sinker, somewhat heaver than

Teen size choppers are the rule during October and November.

Montauk rigs because of the fast currents here. On the other end of the sinker, an eight inch length of window sash chain is connected with an S connector or a size six Duo-Lock snap. While Montauk fishermen have experimented with single hook rigs or snaps at the top for securing the baitfish's head, a two hook rig is more popular on the north side. An open ring, 10/0 O'Shaughnessy is at the tail end of the chain and a smaller 8/0 is connected near the top of it with a split ring. Although this hook is usually located at the third or fourth link from the drail, it can be raised or lowered to custom fit the bait. Whole mossbunker about twelve inches long is used here almost exclusively instead of the more popular herring baits at Montauk. The top hook is forced through the lower jaw and out the top of the head; then the chain is laid flat against the bunker's side, and the bottom hook is inserted in the belly or near the tail. Bluefish rarely hit the top hook because they attack their prey from behind, but the hook keeps the baitfish from curling up and makes a good presentation. It is an extra measure of security, as well, especially on a highly active day when rampaging blues become so competitive that double-headers (believe it or not) may occur.

Having experimented with this rig and others, however, I find the two hook rig is best when Siwash (salmon) hooks are used. They have a shorter shank, as well as a wider bend, deeper bite, and larger tapered point than O'Shaughnessy hooks. One drawback, however, is that the needle point needs touching up periodically; but this is not a major problem. A wide hook is less likely to become sheathed against the side of a thick bunker, where it will do little good when a blue strikes. My hook-up rate is much higher with Siwash hooks. Which reminds me: it only takes one fish scale to lose a monster, so check the point and barb after baiting up. And while I am at it, remember to set the drag below the line's breaking point—i.e., unless you want your reel stripped or a lost rig.

Now that everything is in order, put the reel in free spool and aim the rod at the rig as it makes its long trip to the bottom. As soon as it bumps, engage the reel and take in the slack about five turns. Always hold the rod straight out or down and wait. You can jig the bait a little or not—it will not make too much of a difference. On a good day, hits will occur almost immediately; but if you feel no resistance after the first jolt, reel up quickly and remove your tail-less bunker. Half a bunker will do you no good at this point. Sooner or later, a few people will start bailing blues, and other fish will move in fast, spurred on by the frenzy. That's when hits come from every part of the boat. Some are quite forceful and the blue practically hooks itself; but others may need a moment to make up their minds. On the second or third smash, set the hook sharply and start cranking immediately with the rod still pointing down or parallel to the water. Avoid those dramatically arched rods you see in the pictures all the time because as you are reeling in, the line may suddenly slacken. With a rod held high, you will have no leverage to pump it momentarily while speeding up the retrieve against a blue that is making a run toward you at top speed. All it needs is a little slack line to throw the hook. Arm weary as you may be, by now, the bluefish may decide to take you for a walk. Be diplomatic and follow it—otherwise you will surely tangle with others and lose the fish, the rig, or both. Call out, "Fish on!" and duck in front of your neighbor if his line is farther out than yours. If the fish is way out, however, let your fellow fisherman do the ducking. This kind of cooperation is essential on an open boat going for blues. One fish on, poorly maneuvered, and six people suffer for fifteen minutes of precious fishing time. Finally, after an exasperating five or ten minutes that will seem like a year, when you feel that you simply cannot crank the reel a single turn more, the fish will surface. This is the most critical part of the bout. On a charter boat, it only takes a second to gaff a blue, but from the high railing of an open boat, anything can happen. Keep the line tight, but do not lift the fish out of the water. This seems simple enough until you realize that you may have to back up a few feet for the mate to gaff the fish, and you cannot see. Heed the mate's advice, and you will put a blue in your bag.



The pool is decided after some real tackle busters are hung on the "scales of justice."

Don't admire your fish for too long. Put it in a wet sack in the shade, especially if you are in the pool. Check the hook, as well as the line for nicks, and cut it back if necessary before baiting up again. Fatigued as you are, start again immediately because a run can stop as suddenly as it started—even in the fall.

Once you gain some experience with this kind of angling, you will understand why bluefish are considered **the** game fish in our waters. Try autumn bluefishing for the grandest finale of them all.

SURFCASTER'S LAMENT

by Donald J. Sheehan

This story is written and dedicated to me. That may sound a little selfish, but it's either that or return to sanity and give up surf fishing. If, in fact, this article makes some others feel not so alone and forgotten, it's purely by accident. I assume I will lose the respect of many of my friends and family by the aforementioned self-centeredness and cruelty to fellow man—but that's tough. I am by nature a patient, calm, loving husband and father of five children, cub scout leader, ex-chairman of the Church Council, volunteer fireman, and ex-Marine Captain. Someone could write a book about how typical and nice I am; but he had better not be beside me in the surf when everyone else is catching fish except me—oh, the language. This story is purely written to provide me with a vehicle to relive twenty-four years of rotten luck or whatever you want to call it. I have been continuously congratulating myself on the courage I have been able to muster to sum up all my frustrations—and also must admit that I would never in the darkest hour (at 11:30 p.m. when the fish are in and I have a "bird's-nest") give up the pursuit of my bass and blues.

My first recollection of this problem was in the year of "Mickey Mantle," as my father and I hurtled down Montauk Highway on Long Island in our 1934 Packard-Mafia reject. We were headed for Westhampton Beach to try out my newly-acquired surf fishing outfit. Now, the plan was to have my father drive me to the beach, and he would wait in the Packard and listen to the ball game while I fished. You see, my father hated the beach and sand. If one of the kids even dropped sugar on the kitchen floor, he would go wild if he walked on it.

Well, there I was, on the beach with brand new gear, ready to knock 'em dead. Visions of record bass and bluefish danced in my head as I was pinched back to reality by the first bloodworm out of the box. (Would you believe forty-five cents a dozen? Oh, the good old days.) At thirteen years of age, I had no idea of what I was about to embark on. The success stories I had read had lulled me into a "there's-nothing-to-this-sport" attitude. As I launched into my first cast with worm (blood type), two ounce pyramid sinker, fish finder, and striper hook (with cork), all armed and cocked for my first kill, I was the epitome of shining confidence. One quarter of a second later, right after that loud "snap," worm (blood type), two ounce pyramid sinker, fish finder, striper hook (with cork), and twenty-five yards of twenty pound test linen line were hurtling seaward in a disconnected mode from the rest of my new gear.

Reality came swift and sure as I reeled in the slack line on top of the additional bonus I had received—namely, a bird's-nest. Sixteen years later on the North Shore of Long Island, on a blustery cold Saturday, the weekend after Thanksgiving, the score was evened: I caught my first edible fish from the surf (it was a rough day with thirty to forty knots northwest winds), a 9 lb. striper. We'll get into this conquest later.

Well, the day at the beach came to an end two-and-one-half hours later when my father blew me back to the Packard—evidently the ball game was over. The Yankees won that day and Mantle was the hero at seventeen years of age. My score was three lost rigs, four bird's-nests, a burnt thumb and nineteen pounds of sea grass. Oh yes, and I cut my foot on a shell. Discouraged beaten, downtrodden? Who, me?...you better believe it.

The day was capped off after we arrived home and to my father's delight (ha, ha) someone spilled sugar on the kitchen floor and guess who walked in it? Yep!

So it took many years for me to catch my first edible fish from the surf. By the way, that nine pounder remained in my father-in-law's freezer for about four years by the time I finished showing it off and caught my next striper: a **twenty-seven pounder!** Summing up the years invested up to and including the twenty-seven pounder, I had garnered 1.895 lbs. of fish per year since the year of Mickey Mantle. Thank God I wasn't fishing to eat.

I guess during these unproductive years the most common phrases I heard on the beach were what I classify as the "you shoulda's"—as follows:

"You shoulda been here last night."

"You shoulda used this or that."

"You shoulda seen what they caught ten minutes ago."

Now, over the years I have become immune to the "you shoulda's." As a matter of fact, I have used them myself on occasion. I must confess that the most flagrant use of the "you shoulda's" I have attempted to execute was early one morning at Shinnecock Inlet. Naturally there were no fish in sight, and my friend and I decided to split up. I headed west and he went east to the Inlet. As I rounded a point I saw several gill netters plying their trade. Evil thoughts went through my mind as I conjured up my plan. The plan was to borrow a nice forty pound striper from the gill netters, who were out of sight of my friend around the point, and put my old buddy on by giving him one of the "you shoulda's." As I rounded the point (after leaving a deposit with the gill netters) lugging the forty pounder over my shoulder, I observed my friend knee-deep in the surf with his rod arched in combat.

When I reached him I observed four huge bass on the beach, and in a joyous voice he shouted "you shoulda come with me." The moral of this story is He who "you shoulda's" first, normally gets "you shoulda'ed" last.

Well, I guarantee you I have never used a "you shoulda" since that memorable day. I learn my lessons well—especially when they come from that great fisherman in the sky. I decided to calm down and keep from getting frustrated. I was the most relaxed man on the beach; not a word of frustration was uttered. When others would catch fish right in front of me or the "you shoulda's" were applied to me, I just remained calm and Christian-like—and do you know what? I still didn't catch fish.

My luck started to change about ten years ago at Montauk while camping at Hither Hills State Park. Early one morning I decided to attack without warning. As I crept out of the tent leaving my wife and firstborn son asleep, the sun was just a faint glow in the eastern sky. That morning I decided to launch my attack at Ditch Plains, a fine fishing spot between the Town of Montauk and the Point.

Arriving at the site of potential combat, I was greeted by an elderly man wading in from the surf dragging three fish: two bass and a blue, all well over twelve pounds. This was it—the blood was pounding in my head. The victorious man said that the fish were still feeding just off the Shelf. I attacked with gusto: I guess I should have attacked with something else, because gusto didn't work.

At 1PM, after having whipped the water white with my efforts, the only

blood that was up was in the blood blister I had managed to raise on my casting finger. As I glumly waded out of the surf, a true Christian act occurred. A skin diver who I had watched spear a twenty-five pound bass right out from under my left little toe offered to sell me the fish...he needed money for another tank of air. I arrived at the car several minutes later, as it took me awhile to remove the butt of my surf rod from the skin diver's ear. Guess what I had? ...two flat tires.

Limping back to camp, I was greeted by my father-in-law and the entire brood all giving me a chorus of the "you shoulda's." It seems that a young boy about nine-years-old came wandering down the hill from the parking lot about 10AM, toting a small bay rod with a flounder rig. As he walked through the tent area, he picked some bait of the trash basket that I had thrown out before I left camp for Ditch Plains. At 10:20 a.m., he came wandering back from the surf dragging two bass in the ten to twelve pound class. Needless to say, the clan was laying for me when I returned empty-handed.

Now up to this point this story is a rather sad sack sort of tale, but the day after the "Ditch Plains Affair," my luck changed. About 1PM, I decided to dunk some squid right in front of the tent area. My casting finger hurt so from the Ditch Plains blood blister that I had all I could do to just cast the squid out and let it lay. The beach was empty, not a gull in sight, not a sign of bait. Then it happened—I felt a small but firm strike, I reeled in a small bluefish just above snapper size. That was the first bluefish I had ever caught from the surf. Not much of a fish, but who was I to complain? I figured that there must be some babysitters around caring for that little blue, so I snapped on a Hopkins and planned to cast very carefully so as not to aggravate my Ditch Plains boo-boo.

Standing waist deep in the surf, I suddenly found myself fighting to control a rod bent to the surges of a powerful fish. After 1,363,832 casts and resultant retrieves with no more resistance on the other end than an occasional clump of seagrass, I was not ready for what was happening. A long unused drag had to be stimulated into action. It finally took hold just as I was about to be dragged under by that unidentified wild thing pulling me seaward. (This may seem somewhat over dramatic, but don't forget this is a fish story.)

Six hours later, I crept battered, bloody and bruised from the surf—but victorious. There were seventeen blues lined up neatly on the beach (my wife likes to keep things neat and orderly), ranging from ten to sixteen pounds. Hither Hills would eat tonight. Needless to say, the ice was broken, and I was to have a difficult time sleeping that night as I relived each and every tug and pull of those wild creatures.

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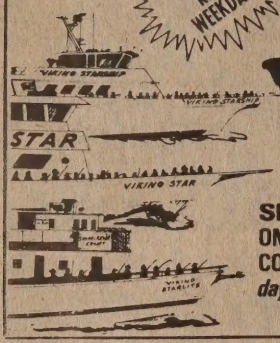

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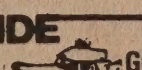

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PORGIES

Capt Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** says the codfishing has been good this week but seems to be tapering down just a bit. The porgy catches continue to be very good while the night bluefishing has been super. On Sunday's cod trip, nine year old Tom Mongan helped by brother John, bagged the pool cod, a 31 pounder. Tom and John are from Berkely Hgts, NJ. Paul says that there are lots of 30 lb. pollack mixed in with the cod catch. See the **Viking Fleet** ad for the striper special and the full moon bass and bluefish special trips for the October moon.

West Lake Fishing Lodge reports that Bob Oakland on the Sea Doll took a 172 lb. mako at the Butterfish Hole this week. Capt Gary Kieffer on the **Barracuda** had loads of blue shark in the 200 to 300 lb. class at the Butterfish Hole. Capt Joe McBride on the charter boat **My Mate** had loads of bluefish fishing SW of the Point, the Sub Buoy, Midway Buoy and at Cartwright from 10 lbs. on up. Aboard the Wee-Mac Collie Mahl of Manhattan, had an estimated 600 lb. swordfish on for 5 hours before it broke the line. Blackfish are starting to do their thing now. John and Mary and Eileen Homoncci of Roslyn on the boat Tessa, had a big catch of bluefish over the weekend at Shagwong and at Zebra Shoals.

Capt Bud Dorman on the **Viking**

Mr. Yost and friends with a pair of bluefin tuna weighing 262 and 100 lbs. Fishing was done south of Block Island aboard Captain Garry Kieffer's "Barracuda."

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Skipper II says that on Tuesday's trip 13 anglers accounted for 1622 porgies plus. Others aboard did well also. On Thursday, John Williams of Far Rockaway was high hook with 225 porgies. Jimmy Bou of the Bronx scored with 214 porgies while 14 yr. son Douglas landed 107 porgies. On Friday's trip Al Beard of New Brunswick NJ took high hook honors with 200 porgies for his day's effort. Despite lumpy seas Saturday and Sunday, fishing remained excellent. Some anglers had well over 100 porgies both days. The action was on the south side, off the Lighthouse and at Midway rips. Sizes varied from small mediums to jumbos.

Charter boat **Julie III** called to tell us that on Sunday the charter for George Acosta and party totaled 350 lbs. of large porgies up to 3¾ lbs., 13 sea bass to 4 lbs. Action was on the south side.

Captain Phil Lewis of the **Adios** reports that on Friday 8 nice bass were caught jigging with bucktails. Sunday's party for Mr. Manfre of Valley Stream, jigged nine bass in the 20 to 30 lb. class. Bass fishing has

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A taste of things to come. Larry Kaider of Medford stands beside the 47 lb. striper he took on a live eel at Great Eastern. Striper fans are warming up for Montauk Marine Basin's annual "Tournament of the Full Moon," to be held October 24-26. The contest is open to surfcasters as well as boatmen.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SHINNECOCK

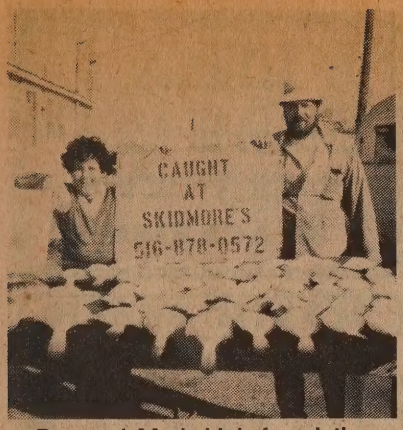
The **Capt Clark II** tells of fantastic sea bass and blackfishing on their first ocean wreck trip this month on Sunday. On one wreck off Southampton, the wreck was so loaded with fish that it was only necessary to anchor once. Big blacks and sea bass were caught from the time the boat stopped until the days fishing ended. Lyle Danforth and wife had 4 pails of blacks and sea bass along with several big blues. On the early tide humpback porgies were caught along with sea bass and blacks. Several bonito and albacore were also taken. Capt. Clark will be fishing ocean wrecks daily, weather permitting. This run of fish should continue well into November.

Tom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** said that Dan Matesic and Ken Olive stopped by with a half bushel of flatties up to 1½ lbs. which they took on the ebb tide using worms and clam chum in the Quogue Canal. Fat flounder being taken near Heddy Creek, on the Basket Grounds and

improved; bluefishing is still good. Bringing in lots of big blues from Cartwright and Southwest Ledge.

Bill Prast called to report a fine day of bluefishing aboard the Montauk charter boat **Darius II**. Bill along with five friends put away 48 giant choppers with a total weight of 700 lbs. fishing at Cartwright grounds. All

Ian Hunt of the **Star Island Yacht Club** said that Cartwright blues remained solid with whole herring accounting for some monstrous choppers. Joe Sherman aboard his private boat the Rambling Rose had a good haul of the choppers over the weekend. The only offshore news took place early last week when the King Wayne returned with a pair of nice makos. Inshore, Phil Rubin on the Sea For Two had a load of blacks to 8 lbs. on Cerebrus Shoals using skimmers. Gene Hall aboard his Lone Gull returned with a nice catch of platter size porgies.

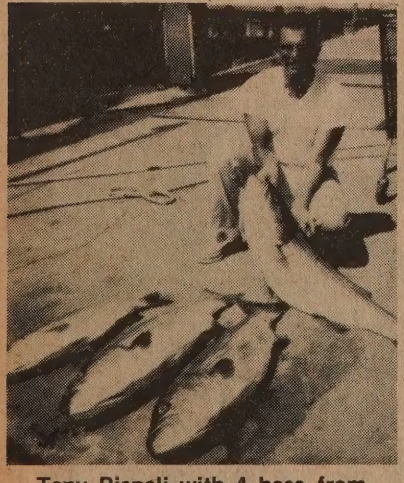


Don and Mark Link found the Moriches Bay flounder very accommodating at buoy 44. Using worms and dyed clams, the pair took 73 flatties after renting a skiff from Skidmore's Fishing Station.

also by casters in the Shinnecock Canal. The bank fishermen are also getting an occasional sea bass and lingering snapper with the flounder. Bill Fales and a friend stopped by with a big haul of blacks made at Shelter Island on fiddler and green crabs. Smith's Cove on Shelter Island has been producing some decent porgy action and fish running 1/2 to 3/4 lbs.

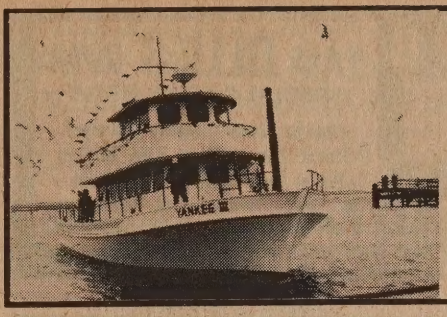
MORICHES BAY

From his **East Moriches Bait and Tackle Shop**, Bill spoke of lots of flounder in Sea Tuck Cove and at buoys 42, 43 and 44. Lots of blue claw crabs being taken in the same areas. Worms along with some chum working best with the flatties. In addition, a few sea bass, porgies and blowfish sprinkled in the catches. Blues up to 10 lbs. and big weakfish being trolled on umbrella rigs just off the beach from the Inlet to Smith's Point.



Tony Rispoli with 4 bass from 18-40 lbs. taken on live eels at Great Eastern. Fishing was done aboard the charter boat "Windy."

★ CAPTREE ★



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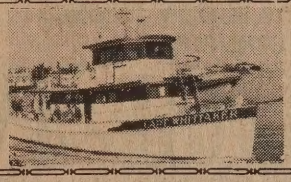
Leaves from Far Right Side of Dock



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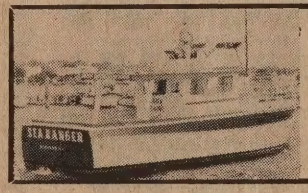

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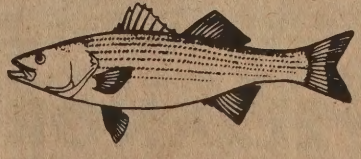

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GREAT SOUTH BAY

★ BEST BET ★

BLACKFISH

MASTIC BEACH

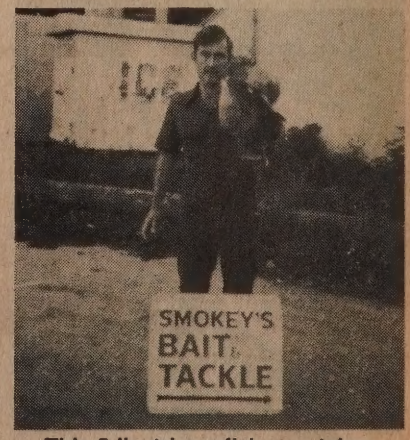
Stirz's Fishing Station reports great flounder fishing with plenty of fish, 75 percent keepers. Best action has been from buoy 19 to the bridge. Best action has been at the mouth of the Pattesqush River all through the week. High hook for the week were the Kennedy Brothers with 135 keeper flounders going up to 1½ lbs. Some small schoolie bass at the bridge on bucktails and on live eels. Sea bass with flounder from buoy 19 to the bridge on worm and clam. Loads of blue claw crabs from buoy 19 to the bridge. Fred Schol and party accounted for 163 blue cla

OAKDALE

From **J&R Sport Shop** Dave told us that Tom Mowdy stopped by with a good mixed bag of kings, weaks, sea bass and porgies early last week. He fished buoys 4 and 5. Dave travelled to Moriches on Friday and returned with 25 nice flounder which he took on worms at buoy 39. Plenty of blackfish being taken on the Kismet Reef with fiddler and green crabs and bass, at the inlet for liveliners. For freshwater fans, some nice trout taken out of Bubbles Falls this past week.

BAY SHORE

Linda at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** in Bay Shore said that lousy weather cut down on the turnout of anglers this weekend. She did know, though, that blues were being trolled in the



This 5 lb. triggerfish was taken by Tom Smith of Brentwood while blackfishing near Kismet. It was checked in at Smokey's Bait and Tackle in Bay Shore.

★CAPTREE★

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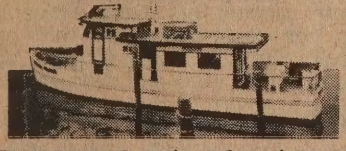

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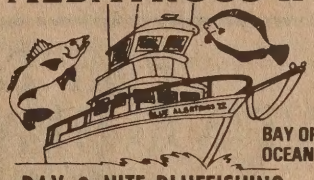

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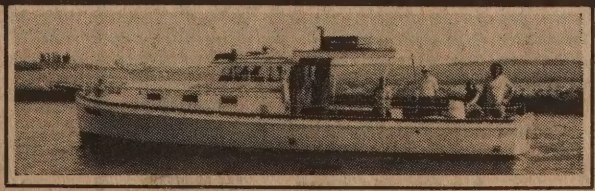

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WEEKENDS—OCT. 4
WEEKDAYS—OCT. 14 (exc. thurs.)

inlet, blackfish are still on the Kismet Reef in good numbers on fiddler crabs and a few bass are being livelined near Fire Island Inlet. Boatmen have been picking away at flounder in the State Channel using worms.

Attractive anglerette Susan Forster proudly displays a big 'Outer Banks' blue she landed on the "Speedy VI" out of Captree.

CAPTREE

Captain Richie Leitch of the **Capt. Leitch IV** has been working the state channel for flounder. While Sunday was tough due to the wind conditions, the skipper did manage to get in some good days during the week with catches of 20 flatties per man not uncommon. Friday's high hook totalled 28 keepers. Richie noted that some fish are now starting to show back in the bay.

Captain Richie Abrams of the **capt. Whittaker** called the blackfishing good and added that catches range anywhere from 10 to 30 tautog per man. Pool fish is usually around the 5 lb. mark and a few sea bass are still mixed in with the blacks. The Kismet Reef and local bay wrecks have been producing most of the fish with fiddlers the prime bait.

Noel of the **Captree Bait Station** said blackfish remain in good supply at the Kismet Reef and have improved in size with the colder weather. Flounder action has picked up in the State Channel where a few sea bass have been mixed with the flatties. Pier fishermen have been doing well with the flounder at the Jones Beach pier. Bluefish providing good fall action on the Patchogue Grounds and also over the Oregon Wreck on jigs. Fish range anywhere from 5-16 lbs., although some days nearly all of the fish are in the 12-15 lb. range.

The **Captree Queen II** reports that bluefishing continues throughout the week and weekend to be very strong with catches of 10 to 20 fish per man fishing on the Patchogue banks. Blues are running 4 to 8 lbs. with some fish everyday coming in from 12 to 16 lbs. Some days were off a bit due to high winds. Northwest winds and cooler weather should cause the good fall fishing to get even better. The last night bluefish trip will be Monday, October 13th. However, the day bluefishing will continue as long as the blue cooperate.

The charterboat **Rendova Island** newly purchased by Capt Carmine, called to say that he is now booking fall flounder and blackfish trips. For details on this boat and the dates available, please see ad.

Capt Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt Bob Joseph** lets us know that 16 fares on Saturday accounted for over 200 choppers from 8 to 16 lbs. fishing the Oregon Wreck along with an area 2 miles to the west. Sunday's bluefishing trips was also super with 30 fares decking over 500 insane bluefish in the 6 to 17 lb. category at the Oregon and a bit to the west thereof also. Jigs have been working best but fish are being taken on bait also. On Tuesday's trip John P Copper of Huntington Station walked a way with the pool with an 18 lb. 2 oz. gorillagator. The night trips, with Capt Mitch at the wheel, have continued excellent also.

Capt George Tweedy of the **Capt Scotty** called to say that the bluefishing has continued super this past week. Sunday's bluefishing was exceptionally good and everyone was ready to return to the dock by 12:45 p.m. Saturday's action was good but

Fish Talk: TWO BEAUTIES

(Continued from page 8.)

prize. In the finals, the contestants go back into the pools to grab an eel, but this time using only one hand. What they don't know is that one of the pools now contains a small live alligator. The contestant who comes up with the alligator is the grand prize winner. Oh yes, this game show could give away an artificial gold arm to fight inflation."

TERRIFIC, BARBARA! However, I wonder about the nature of the grand prize. Would a free all-expense paid fishing trip to catch eels be appropriate? Maybe in the middle of the Sargasso Sea during spawning time?

ALONG THE SAME LINE! In keeping with our twin theme today of "What became of the species" and "let's have a laugh," we offer the following letter, also from Barbara Herrera. "After last year's fishing season ended, I went to visit a local 'medium' to try and raise the spirit of Davy Jones. For awhile, it seemed pretty hopeless, but after about an hour, the seance was successful. When Davy Jones appeared before us, I asked him what was wrong with the fishing these days? Well, he began by telling us that legislation ponders to find points of solution that may never come into effect for years, and that politics today, seems that some are willing to put an oar, but nobody is willing to row! This may well be the kiss of death for all of us, because it's anybody's guess how long the fishing will last. There is nothing quite so ego-depressing as returning home from an absolutely barren fishing trip. Mr. Jones also said that he knows exactly what has been going on in his domain with the dumping of toxic chemicals, sewage, sludge, etc., in the area. Not to speak of the empty bait boxes, dead fish (over-catch and trash fish), line wrappers, hook sleeves, beer cans and bottles of stronger potions. His majestic ruler King Neptune has told him that he was having a very hard time trying to keep things in balance in the environment, but had no idea that the major problem was caused by recreation-hungry New Yorkers. Mr. Jones then took me by the hand and led me down to the water. He taught me to listen to the sounds of the times within the sea. 'Hear those sounds,' he said? 'Those are the cries of man's inhumanity to man over the years. ...What I want you fishermen to do is to get off your butts and holler. Let the legislators know what needs to be done.' (Then he vanished.) But before he left, he gave us his prospects for fulfillment concerning the environment.

1. Thou shall not pollute.
2. Thou shall not spill oil or any toxic matter within the waters of the world.
3. Thou shall observe and keep the fruit of the sea free from harm.
4. Thou shall not add to the sea what is not natural.
5. Thou shall not harvest or rape the sea for money.
6. Thou shall let rest, for five years, any endangered species.
7. Thou shall not fish in spawning or nursery grounds.
8. Thou shall keep holy the angler's Sabbath.
9. Thou shall never use nets in inshore waters.
10. Thou shall only snag enough bunker for the day's fishing.

THANKS! Of course, this was written tongue-in-cheek by Barbara. However, as with most humor and satire there is much truth to what is said. Thus, it is funny in form, but the content is very serious. We may not agree specifically with each and every point or commandment, but we sure can concur on the spirit of the message.

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This magnificent 457 lb. blue marlin was taken out at the Canyon by Captain Ted Freund aboard his Irish Faker. Photo courtesy of Augie's Bait and Tackle in Babylon.

had its off and ons. Sunday however was a steady fast pick of 10 to 15 lb. animals. The pool fish went 17 lbs. This was all jig fishing over a favorite wreck. Several fares hit the 35 fish mark. Catches were also good Monday through Friday with many fares bagging up with 60 to 70 3 to 5 lb. fish. Catches averaged 12 to 20 fish a man. With the water temp still up to 69 degrees, bluefishing should continue well past Turkey Day.

BABYLON

From **Augie's Tackle Shop** the word from Ralph was of good flounder fishing at Hemlock Cove in the State Channel. Blues in the 4-5 lb. class and weaks to 10 lbs. in 35' of water outside the Inlet for jiggers. The private boat Happy Hooker did a job on these fish on Sunday. The Babylon Tuna Club flounder contest was a big success with plenty of small flounder being taken on Sunday by competing club members. Walt Krawczyk aboard the Top Cat finished atop the heap with a 1 lb. 8 oz. flattie.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS

★ BEST BET ★

FLOUNDER

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait & Tackle reports good flounder fishing in the bay, particularly in the pocket at the Sore Thumb, at Cowans, the State Channel, Frank & Dick's, and off Good Sam. Snappers are blue claws are mainly at the Inlet. Good bluefishing continues to be had at the Patchogue banks. Big Mike caught 14 striped bass up to 22 lbs. on live eels, live blackfish and live bunker fishing at the construction dock and at the Sore Thumb on the last 3 hours of the ebb. Some kingfish around, along with blacks, some sea bass and small porgies at the bridges and at the radar dock.

SEAFORD

Lon reported from **Wanser's Tackle Shop** reported lots of flounder are being taken in Massapequa Cove, at Four Corners, Haunts Creek and Zachs Bay. Bigger fish seem to be at the latter two spots. Worm bait, along with some clam chum is the ticket to a good score. Good blackfishing at the local bridges and wrecks on fiddler crabs.

Capt Eddie's Fishing Station reports lots of flounders, one fifth of which are keepers. Best areas have been Massapequa Cove, the bridge areas and Four Corners. The bridges are producing blacks, sea bass, kings and blowfish in addition to the flatties.

Capt Brian of the open boat **Chinco** reports that Sunday's flounder action

Young Vincent Canale somehow managed to subdue this 16 lb. weak on 6 lb. test line in Great South Bay. His younger sister, Lisa Marie, lends "big brother" a hand in displaying the huge tiderunner. Subscriber photo.

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was picky with catches averaging 10 to 15 flounders per man with fish from 1½ to 1¾ lb. not uncommon. Some sea bass and blowfish mixed in, of good size. The Zacks Bay area produced best on blood worms on the flooding tide. Pool winner of the day was Nabil Safwat with a 2 lb. flounder.

BELLMORE

Merrick Tackle tells of big blues and an occasional striper taken in the Point Lookout surf on big swimming and popping plugs. On Sunday, Scott weighed in two 16 lb. blues and an 18 lb. blue. A skillful angling award for a 3 lb. 5 oz. flounder goes to Walter Bohnenberger. Scattered kingfish and sea bass along with blackfish at the bridges on clam and blood worm.

MERRICK

George at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells us that Saturday's flounders were excellent in the rain. Fish were all around a pound with very few midgets. Best was at the S Turn and Rowboat Alley, and the area from Merrick Point west to the Golf Course and south again to High Flats Drain. Sunday saw very good catches made also except at high water.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports flounder fishing has been good this week in Baldwin Bay and Swift Creek with keepers going from / to ¾ lb. and lots of midgets. The Meadowbrook Bridge area is holding blackfish and the Twreck larger blackfish. Tony Petrone fishing the Swift Creek area had 40 mixed flounder, blacks and blowfish.

WEST END
SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
BLACKFISH

FREEPORT

Greta at **Anthony's Fishing Station** said that Swift Creek and Long Creek have been producing loads of small but fat flounder on bloodworms and mussels. Excellent blackfishing at the bridges on fiddlers and crabs with some porgies mixed with the tautogs.

The **Starstream II** tells of good fast bluefishing all week long. Fish are going from 8 to 17 lbs., mainly working around the area of the Glorian Doris. On Thursday a 7 lb. cod was jigged up in addition to the blues. Sunday the boat fished Cholera for a good day on mixed fish.

The **Freeport Boatmen's Association** reports that the charterboat **Nite Owl II** on Wednesday sailed a 17 man charter. They ended up with 2 garbage cans full of bluefish fillets and 4 garbage cans full of fish in the round. All this in 2½ hrs. of jig fishing. Capt Jimmy said that fish were on constantly. On Sunday the Association's boats jigged and baited fair to good catches of blues.

The **Capt Al** tells of a great week of bluefishing mostly at Cholera. Saturday they picked a way at 6 to 18 lb. blues. Jerry Crystal of Nanuet NY accounted for 17 blues up to 17¾ lbs. on Friday. The skipper says action

The Ricke family display several fluke and a mess of small blues taken in Reynold's Channel. Photo courtesy of Ed's Fishing Station.

was very good all week long. Bonito were caught also from 7 to 9 lbs. mixed in with the blues on Wednesday. Customers also had bonito Sunday. The seas were lumpy on the weekend. This has all been bait fishing, though Monday about a half dozen fish were diamond jigged.

The **Capt Bill**, sailing 2 half-day flounder trips daily, reports very good catches during the week. Roosevelt Rogers bagged up with 42 blackfish, sea bass and flounder up to 3 lbs. on Tuesday. Charlie Jackson had 30 flounder, porgies, sea bass and blackfish Thursday. One fare had a solid 20 blackfish. Bill says generally speaking, good solid mixed bag catches are being made. Sunday morning's half-day trip averaged 8 to 15 flounders per man. It's been mostly blackfish on the afternoon trips. Species caught seem to depend on the stage of the tide.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** reports that the **BF III** had blues Tuesday at Cholera up to 16½ lbs. Action was best in the morning on butterfish and chum with the larger fish hanging near the bottom. On Saturday the **BF II** boated 200 plus keeper flounder in local waters. On Sunday both boats had flounder, sea bass, blackfish at the bridges and in local creeks. On Saturday Capt Tony DeLernia on the **BF III** fished local waters and had sea bass and blacks on the **BF III.**

The tuna are still there says Joe "Tuna" Long, when he got back from Sunday's charter headed by Walter Spencer and group from radio station WOR. Seas were very lumpy but they managed 7 little tuny (false albacore), a 30 lb. bluefin tuna and some green bonito.

The **Capt Gary** reports that Saturday's charter for the Action Electric Co. had a good days flounder fishing despite the weather. Sunday's charter for Record World also had a good day. High hook was Ryan Draizin with 21 flounder. Pool winner was Tom Pettit with a 2 lb. flounder. Little Mike Califano caught 14 fish plus two double headers. The boat will be running as open boat October 19th at 8 a.m. for flounder and the skipper says he still has choice weekend dates

available for October and November charters.

POINT LOOKOUT

Capt Dennis of the charterboat **Marie III** tells us that Sunday's charter fished in the Bay and had flounders in Long Creek and Fundy Creek. There were lots of throwbacks but a goodly number of fish from ½ to ¾ lb. There were enough decent size fish to make it worthwhile. Then at slack the boat fished for 2 hours at the Meadowbrook Bridge taking an excellent catch of blackfish to 4 lbs., a load of sea bass to 1½ lbs., porgies and flounders up to 1½ lbs. They also caught a 16" fluke and a few big blowfish. The pool went to Tod Harkins with a 4 lb. black. Runner up was Ken Damiani with a 3½ lb. black. They also had a half dozen monster blue claw crabs.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckman's Tackle Shop** said the excellent blackfishing and flounder fishing in the area has been keeping everyone busy. Blacks at the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs, while flounder being taken on worms and mussels throughout the area.

LONG BEACH

Bernie Haag, reporting for the **Long Beach Sports Marina** spoke of a catch of 39 flatties to 1½ lbs. for Vince Caputo and his son Vince, Jr. on Thursday. They fished near the railroad trestle. Chet Kern of New York City returned with 25 flounder to

EDITORIAL: Dragging in L.I. Sound

(Continued from page 4.)

the problems was in vain. The sincerity of the R.A.M.P. group was met by arrogance from the commercial fishermen. A request to their spokesman regarding tonnage of a certain species he caught was answered with, "Hey, I don't ask you how much you have in the bank!" It should be noted that for the disproportionate amount of commercial fishermen relative to the amount of rod and reel fishermen, that commercial fishermen displayed remarkable strength in that they supported their interests by showing up at the meeting and were well disciplined by their leader. Members of groups with vested interest such as boatyards, also were present and supported commercial interests.

The persistent ones among us have paid a price higher than the loss of time and money. While working for the good of all of us, these men and women have had their lives and the lives of their families endangered, threatened, have been injured, their property damaged and, as of this writing, are still receiving abuse. Tackle shops received threats and all but one stood firm. At police request, these facts have not been published or disclosed until now. It is not by coincidence that only members of R.A.M.P.'s Executive Board who were present at this meeting were victimized by tires being ice-picked and a vehicle wrapped in barbed wire while parked at the Port Jefferson boat ramp. These victims were strong enough in their beliefs to identify themselves and state their opinion in the face of powerful, hostile and arrogant opposition.

Because of their belief in American principles and practices and for fearlessly standing up for what is right, we owe these people our gratitude and assistance when called upon.

More important than the recreational and sociological aspects is the economic picture. Long Island's major industry, attraction, world reputation, involves the water-related recreational activities. Rod and reel fishing is the most important economic factor of all these activities. Endanger the sport and you shake the economic foundation of this Island! Rod and reel fishing reaches past the obvious retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, boat liveries, boat suppliers, boat sellers, boat builders, party boats, hundreds of thousands of residing sport fishermen and the employees of these businesses. It reaches into home builders, developers, banks, malls, stores, and why we live here.

The rod and reel fishery in the estuarine waters of Long Island Sound must be protected. Anything adversely affecting this fishery adversely affects the economic well-being of the Island. Improve the fishing and you improve the Island. At present there exists a coalition of fishing clubs and businessmen connected with the sport fishing community, who are working together for all our mutual benefit.

Fred P. Golofaro

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2 lbs. and seven nice kingfish from behind Duck Point. Both scores were made on worms and mussels using no chum. Bernie called the blackfishing outrageous at the Gong buoy near the Silver Point jetty, at the railroad trestle and under the Atlantic Beach bridge. Charlie Porcella put away 44 tautogs from 1-3 lbs. using fiddler crabs. Ed Rindfleisch drilled a 28 lb. striper along with a few big blues from around the Atlantic Beach bridge. He used live bunker. School bass being wirelined on bucktails in the same area. Results of the Marina fishing contest went as follows: In the bluefish category, Ed Rindfleisch finished in 1st place with a 15 lb. chopper. Roger Porcella took 2nd with a 13 lber. and Jim Gentilesco held down 3rd with an 11 lber. Chet Kern and Robert Williams led the flounder category. Each checked in flatties of 2 lbs.

ATLANTIC BEACH

The word from **Skippy's** in Atlantic Beach was some hot blackfish action around the local bridges. Keeping only the larger fish, Ken Kohlmier and Dave Glas took 30 tautogs from 3-5 lbs. and 6 sea bass on fiddler crabs Thursday. Flounder now in good supply and improved in size in Hog Channel with a few kingfish mixed in. Worms taking most of the flatties.

Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** reported very good blackfish and flounder action around the bridges. Some bass to 30 lbs. being wire lined on bucktails and also livelined in the area. Still some tuna activity in the Mud Hole as demonstrated by Oscar Amoroso who put away a 395 lb. bluefin last week. He trolled this fish, but on Saturday settled down to chumming and boated an 860 lb. giant. He added a trolled fish of 198 lbs. the same day. On Sunday, the Four Queens returned with a 359 lb. mako.

JAMAICA BAY

Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** said the blackfishing from the local bridges continued good and noted a steady improvement in the flounder fishing. Apparently the porgies and snappers are gone from the area, according to Art.

Bob at **Seaman's Bait** reports some porgies still being caught in the half pound range behind TSS and at Inwood Park. Some flounders starting along with blackfish at the Cross Bay Bridge on worm and clam. Some bass in the 20'' range hitting grass shrimp and worm bait at the Cross Bay Bridge at night. Ten to 15 lb. bluefish at the Radar Pier on bunker chunks and live bunker with morning and nights best. Blacks at all the bridges all day long.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt Walt on the **Flamingo III** says the fishing is holding up very well with good quantities of mostly cocktail blues being caught. The present fall run of blues is made up of 1½ to 4 lb. fish with an occasional big blue mixed in. This has all been jig fishing. Weakfish are still very much in evidence. Saturday's trip had 110 weakfish from 5 to 10 lbs. mixed in with the blues for 20 fares. Catches are averaging 10 to 40 fish a man, depending on the day, conditions and the particuarly angler's ability. Walt said this fishing should continue well into November.

Capt Kevin Bradshaw announces the arrival of his new boat, **Dorothy B VII**. The vessel was formally the Capt Joseph out of Captree. The boat made it's first run from Sheepshead Bay on Saturday. The skipper said he will be sailing daily at 8 a.m. and is hoping for a solid fall run of big flounders. Fishing was picky on the weekend due to the high winds, but enough fish were caught to make everyone happy. High hook over the weekend was 25 mixed flounder, porgies, sea bass and blacks.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** spoke of good action with blues and weeks continuing in Great Kills Harbor on bunker. It's mostly blues at buoy 14 in Princess Bay channel on bait and trolled spoons. These fish run anywhere from 3-12 lbs. Big choppers being trolled on spoons at Nortons Point. Good blackfishing at all the usual haunts with some snappers, porgies and a few flounder keeping the pier fishermen busy.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

SOUTHOLD

Porgies and blacks in the Sound says Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** with Petty's Bight good this week on porgies and flounder. Although boats couldn't be sent out of the Orient Point Station due to NW winds Sunday, the skiffs did a respectable job Saturday in the Sound on porgies, flounder and blacks, on worm, clam and fiddlers. In the bay, 2 to 4 lb. blacks have been taken off the Brickyard and Greenlawn. Flounders are being caught at the Greenport Breakwater and off the Oyster Factory, plus off Long Beach. A lot of midgets which should be returned to the water, but also a lot of ¾ to 1 lb. fish. Some blues and stripers off the Sound beaches on bunker chunks. Also some stripers in the Gut at night on bucktail.

NOYAC

Noyac Fishing Station reports lots of flounder are around with the better fishing at the nets off Jessups. Noyac Creek and the channel are also producing well. Lots of fish are being brought in that are over a pound. The new hours at the station are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

SAG HARBOR

The **Wilhelric II** announces absolutely, unbelieveable porgy fishing both in size of fish and quantities caught. All fares had buckets and buckets of big porgies reported Capt. Artie Latch. Jumbos were hauled up consistently. The skipper says he has never seen porgy fishing like this before. Double headers and triple headers were common fishing in the deep water. It's been nothing short of a bail job. Blacks and sea bass are mixed in with the porgies. The bottom seems alive with fish. The boat is fishing 1 hr. from the dock and Artie says you have to see it to believe it. The boat will remain with the porgies and will actively seek blackfish on Tuesdays and Wednesdays only. The blacks have been half rats and half medium to good size fish.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

ROCKY POINT

Stan said from his **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** that big blues from 6-13 lbs. are being taken near Shoreham on bunker, jigs and trolled umbrella rigs. Blackfish now making a decent appearance, with a 10 lber. taken fro from the beach at Hagerman's landing on Thursday. Reports on flounder in the area have been scattered as not too many anglers working on the flatfish as of yet.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that plenty of blacks, porgies and blues are being caught. Blacks are being pulled from all the rocky areas, particularly at the Shoreham Power Plant. A 6 pounder was weighed in this week and an 11 pounder last week, on green crab. Solid porgy catches of a pound plus, are being made in 50' of water. Good catches of 2 to 3 lb. blues being taken inside buoy 9 and between the station and

★FREEPORT★

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ALL SPECIES
FREE BROCHURE

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•WHITING•
•COD•

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FREEPORT'S LARGEST FISHING FLEET
★ 2 BIG, CLEAN, 65' BOATS ★

FARE $14

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TWO ½ DAY TRIPS DAILY

FLOUNDER 8A.M.-12P.M.
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ADULTS $8.
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FROM POOP DECK DOCK ON WOODCLEFT CANAL FREEPORT

FISH ABOARD THE CAPT. AL

FARE $21.

FREEPORT'S LARGEST, FASTEST MOST MODERN ALL STEEL PARTY BOAT WITH 37 YEARS EXPERIENCE AT THE HELM!

BLUES!

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7 PM EVERY NITE!

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★ FULL ELECT.

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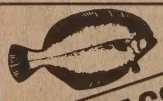

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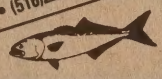

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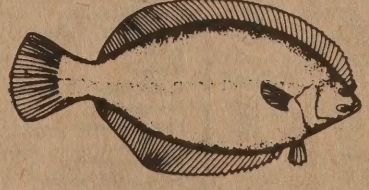
POINT LOOKOUT



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GIANT TUNA•WRECK FISHING

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CLEAN 1-34 PASS. CHARTERBOAT•ALL ELECT
NITE BLUES•MOONLIGHT SAILS•WRECKS
5 MIN. TO JONES INLET•HELPFUL CREW
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★6 to 18 PASSENGERS★

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	12:55	1:25	1:50	2:15	1:30	1:45	3:00	3:05	4:20	4:35	4:35	4:55	1:15	1:45	10/16
FRI.	1:55	2:25	2:55	3:20	2:30	2:50	4:00	4:10	5:15	5:35	5:35	5:55	2:15	2:45	10/17
SAT.	3:00	3:35	4:00	4:25	3:40	4:00	5:00	5:15	6:15	6:35	6:35	7:00	3:20	3:45	10/18
SUN.	4:10	4:40	5:05	5:25	4:50	5:10	5:55	6:15	7:25	7:45	7:35	8:00	4:20	4:45	10/19
MON.	5:15	5:45	6:00	6:25	5:55	6:15	6:50	7:10	8:30	8:55	8:30	9:00	5:15	5:40	10/20
TUE.	6:10	6:40	6:55	7:15	6:50	7:10	7:40	8:05	9:30	9:55	9:25	9:55	6:05	6:30	10/21
WED.	7:05	7:30	7:45	8:10	7:40	8:00	8:30	8:55	10:20	10:55	10:20	10:45	6:55	7:20	10/22
THUR.	7:55	8:15	8:35	8:55	8:25	8:50	9:15	9:45	11:15	11:45	11:10	11:40	7:45	8:10	10/23

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

10/17	7:14	6:16
10/18	7:16	6:14
10/19	7:17	6:12
10/20	7:19	6:11
10/21	7:20	6:09
10/22	7:21	6:08
10/23	7:22	6:07

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
10/9	10/17	10/23	10/30

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

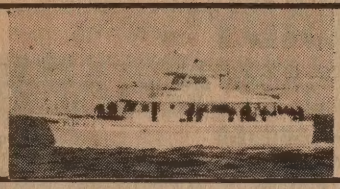
The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	10:50	5:05	11:15	5:35
Fri.	11:50	6:05	—	6:30
Sat.	12:15	6:50	12:45	7:20
Sun.	1:05	7:40	1:35	8:00
Mon.	1:50	8:30	2:15	9:00
Tues.	2:40	9:20	3:15	9:55
Wed.	3:30	10:10	4:10	10:35
Thurs.	4:20	11:00	4:50	11:35

★SHEEPSHEAD BAY★

FLAMINGO III
BIG • NEW • FAST • COMFORTABLE
6:30 A.M. DAILY
KNAPP ST. EXIT, BELT PKWY., TURN IN AT LOBSTER HOUSE
(212) TW-1-3980



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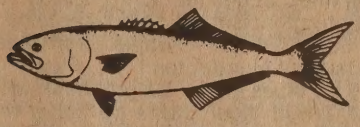
Owned and run by the Wiegand Family—
3 Generations (over 40 yrs.) satisfying the fishing public!
CAPT. WALTER, CAPT. BOB & CAPT. STEVE
Dockmaster JOHN



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PARTY BOAT CO. ALL WINTER
RESERVATIONS ONLY!
WRITE OR CALL (617) 749-0015
QUINCY PARTY BOAT/ MASS BAY MARINE
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GROUP RATES

FLOUNDER
ARE BACK!
FISH WITH QUINCY PARTY BOAT IN QUINCY BAY
TUES.–SUN. ★ RESERVATION ONLY ★ WRITE OR CALL
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(617) 749-0015

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FULL GALLEY • TACKLE & BAIT ON BOARD
7A.M. EVERYDAY
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SHEEPSHEAD BAY • PIER 7
PILOT II BLACKS & SEABASS
★ 6 AM DAILY ★ AFTERNOON FLUKE & BLUES 5P.M.-10P.M.
72' Triple Diesel FRI., SAT. & SUN.
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Fast, Twin Engine Fishing Machine!
THERMOCLINE
SHARK • TUNA • BLUES • BASS
–All Inshore & Offshore Fishing–
FULLY EQUIPPED • 6 MAN LIMIT
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★ ALL TYPES OF FISHING ★
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SPERRY TOPSIDER SHOES & BOOTS
★ ANDE LINE ¼, ½, 1 & 2 lb. Spools ★
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FRESH & FROZEN BAIT
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STRICT 20 MAN LIMIT • $60 FARE • RES. ONLY
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A deluxe boat you & your family can enjoy!
Tamaqua Fishing Station
5 min. from Sheepshead Bay
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DAD'S DREAM
FLOUNDER • MACKS • FLUKE
BLUES • SHARK • TUNA
CAPT. TOM FARRELL (212)258-5601

Port Jeff trolling and jigging. Catches were very good during the week also. Flounder are being caught off the dock and in general all around the harbor. Catches would be super on a day without wind, a point to keep in mind. There are loads of bunker in the harbor which should be followed soon by big bluefish and perhaps stripers.

PORT JEFFERSON

John at **Caraftis Fishing Station** reports fishing is still good with plenty of porgy action at Old Field Point and Crane Neck. John says the harbor is INFESTED with small to medium porgies. Good blackfishing at all the rocky areas near by with green crab working best. Plenty of 3 to 6 lb. blues off the Pink House at Belle Terre on diamond jigs and on umbrellas. Mickey Chiarenza of Tri-Fin Tackle Co. bagged an 11¾ lb. oceanic bonito on a tiger jig this weekend. There are schools of big blues wandering and chasing bunker. Crane Neck would be a good place to wait for them. An occasional big blue can be taken in the harbor on bunker chunks.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **OK Bait & Tackle** tells of good bluefishing, fish running 2 to 6 lbs. taken on the bar outside the harbor with mornings and evenings best plugging with Rebels and poppers. Fish are also caught in the Lilco hotwater outflow on light tackle. Very good porgy action when the wind is down with best action being at Crane Neck on clam. Porgies up to 2 lbs. have been taken, both tides working. Loads of flounder in the river roughly 1/8 being keepers. Please return the small fish. Some flatties are going up to 2 lbs. on worm and red dyed clam. Chumming or stirring the bottom helps out a lot. Both tides on the flounder working also. Good catches also available casting from the beach at high water. Some medium size blacks mixed in with the porgies.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** reported big porgies at Eatons Neck along with some nice flounder on worms and clams. Blackfish action improving daily with fiddler and green crabs taking most of the tautogs at 11B and buoy 13.

HUNTINGTON

The **Ever Ready** reports excellent bluefish action on Saturday morning's run. Frank Zodl of the Bronx was high hook with 29 blues. Delores Schmidt of Woodbury took the pool with a 6 lb. blue. Delores totaled the day with 25 blues. On the 2 p.m. run Arthur Tubertini of Ft. Salonga was high hook with 11 blues. Fifth grader Ely Zebrowski of Smithtown had 5 blues. On Sunday morning's run Scott Schleyer of Huntington Station took the pool with a 5½ lb. blue. The bottom fishing trips were good with some catches in the high 20s. Jim Hawkins of Deer Park had 27 mixed fish. Mitchell Stewart walked a way with the pool with a 3 lb. porgy.

Ronnie of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** spoke of lots of school bass to 9 lbs. being worm trolled in the area. Bass

NORTH SHORE

HUNTINGTON FAMILY FISHING **EVER READY** HUNTINGTON FROM $6—$15.

6AM SAT. & SUN. ONLY — **BLUES ★ WEAKS ★ STRIPERS** — **2P.M.** SAT. ONLY (EXC. NOV. 8)

"BLUES BITE BEST AT SUNRISE & SUNSET" – CALL RE: BLUEFISH GUARANTEE

PORGIES•FLUKE•FLOUNDER

1P.M.–5P.M. –SUNDAY — Call For Up To Date Sailing Info & Confirmation

PRIVATE CHARTERS AVAIL. FROM $4. A PERSON

KNUTSON'S MARINA L.I.E. EXIT 49N, END RT. 110 NORTH TO HUNTINGTON, TO END OF NEW YORK AVENUE, FOLLOW SIGNS

(516) 486-6022 — CAPT. DON & MARY CONSTANTIN — (516) HA3-5700

HUNTINGTON

OPEN BOAT **HI-HOOK** 57 PASS.

BLUES•WEAKS•FLDR.•PORGIES•FLK.•BASS

2 TRIPS FRI., SAT. & SUN – 6:15AM & 3PM

"A COMFORTABLE,CLEAN BOAT"

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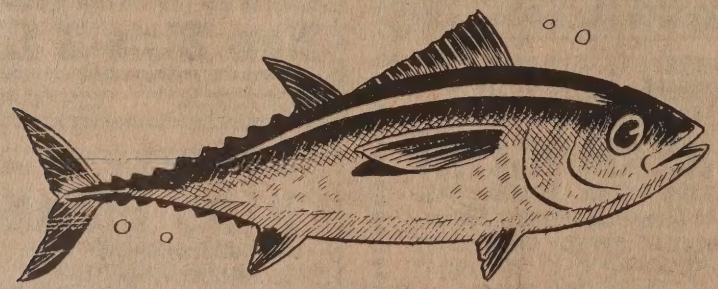

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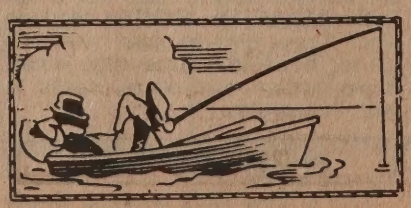

also being trolled on bucktails and umbrella rigs with wire line in the Eatons Neck rips. Small blues still in good supply at the obstruction buoy for jiggers and a couple of real slammers in the harbors on bunker. Very good blackfishing at buoys 13 and 11b and also at Target Rock with fiddlers and green crabs both effective baits. Good porgy action continues at Eatons Neck and flounder now plentiful but small with worms taking most of the flatties.

George Valentine from his **Four Winds Tackle Shop** reported a real slammer blue for Bill Collins of Huntington. Bill used a bunker to take a 20 lb. 4 oz. chopper from just outside of Huntington Inlet. Plenty of 2-5 lb. blues still at Eatons Neck with the TriFin Tiger Stripe jig doing the best job on these fish. School bass being worm trolled along local beaches and also trolled in the Eatons Neck rips on umbrellas and bucktails. Plenty of porgies at Ashroken and Eatons Neck. Don Valli emphasized the size of some of the humpbacks by taking a 1 lb. 4 oz. fish from the 11B area. Blackfish coming on with the cooler weather with good reports coming from 11B, Marshall Field and Makamah Beach.

GLEN COVE

From the **Glen Cove Sport Shop**, Dave reported snappers have about had it and that flounder, after a good spurt, slacked off. The current dose of cool weather, however, should improve the flatfishing considerably. Reports of improved action with blacks at Weeks Point on fiddler crabs.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

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MIXED BAG

CITY ISLAND

Capt Joe of the **Ebb Tide II** says there is still very good porgy fishing going on for his customers. Winnie Ferrara had 50 porgies Sunday and 100 Saturday. During the week fares averaged 40 to 60 good porgies a man. The boat is working the areas of Lloyds, Huntington and areas off Norwalk and Stanford. Some blackfish mixed in. Porgies are running from ½ to 1½ and blacks up to 6 lbs.

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** said flounder and blackfish are provind the bulk of the action in the area. Flounder on worms in the Orchard Beach Lagoon and at Sands Point. Blackfish are being taken in good numbers at Execution Light and the Old CBS tower with fiddler crabs

the top bait. The big blues were conspicuous by their absence this past week.

SURF REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Sunday morning's casting session at Moriches turned up a pair of goose eggs for fellow Great South Bay Anglers Club member Mark Reuschel and myself. The day will be remembered nonetheless for the display put on by novice angler George Dudek of Mastic. If the story sounds more like a Hollywood script, I'll swear on my favorite 1166 Lami that everything which follows is gospel truth. Had Mark not been there with me, I surely would have had reservations about repeating the morning's turn of events. Well, let's get on with the story. After flailing the pre-dawn surf with swimming plugs and then spending an 1½ hours throwing tins and poppers, we had approached George Dudek to see if he had been doing anything recently along this stretch of beach. George assured he was new to the game of surf casting and was still seeking his first fish from the beach. A closer look at his outfit and rigging confirmed his own summation that he still had plenty to learn about the sport.

We proceeded to leave George but as he went back to his casting, his he snapped off a Danny surface swimmer. Trying to be good samaritans, Mark and I decided to try and snag the unfortunate angler's plug which was bobbing on the wave tops 75' from where we stood. Mark casually remarked, "Now watch a big bass come up and take that plug." As we prepared to cast to the stray swimmer, you guessed it, a "big bass" came up, swirled once, twice and presto, the plug disappeared for good. That's only part of the story.

Five minutes later, I saw a good fish roll to my right and looked up to see a nervous, shaking George hanging onto a screaming reel. A bass had come up and gobbled his "poorly" presented tin which was racing along the surface of the water. Ten minutes later, after comments like "I don't believe it," and "I'm gonna get sick—I feel nauseous," I put the gaff into George's first fish ever from the surf. The 26 lber. capped off a morning which we and certainly George will remember for a long, long time. Some good action around parts of the Island this past week which the reports should attest to.

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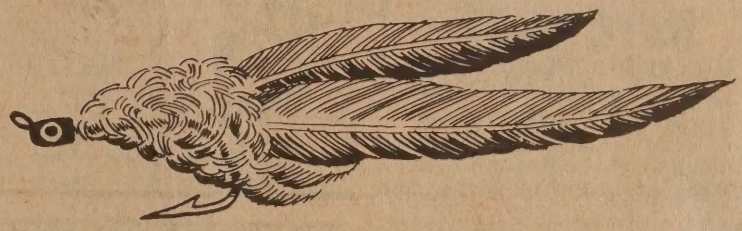
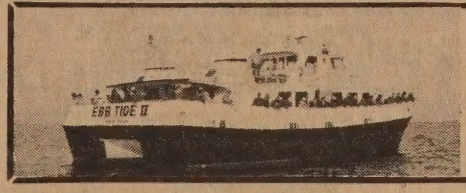


★CITY ISLAND★



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Jeff Kudrick managed to land this 15 lb. blue on spinning tackle aboard his dad's boat Daybreak.

South Shore

From his Staten Island Sport Shop, Lenny of **Santos** reported there's finally been some decent bass action at Penny Beach where schoolies are taking worms fished on the bottom An 18 lb. bass fell to a RedFin Sunday AM at Cliff St. The bar at the entrance to Great Kills Harbor continues to surrender some big blues and weaks on bunker chunks to casters fishing in the early morning hours and during the evening.

Good action continued from the Cross Bay Blvd. bridges as demonstrated by some of the scores relayed to me by Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle.** Going back to last Tuesday, Joe Roman, Victor Abdia and Tom Eisenhower put away 5 blues from 10-17½ lbs. and 10 weakfish from 10 to 13 lbs. All the action took place on the South Channel bridge during outgoing water. The trio used bunker chunks on the fish. On Wednesday, Al Trinidad decided to test the same bridge but on incoming water and also used a bunker chunk to rack up a 32 lb. striper. A pair of nice stripers were checked into the shop this Sunday. Both came from Breezy Point. Frank Rios cliicked with a 37 lb. striper while Noah Moss put away a 21 lber. These fish were also taken on bait, according to Artie.

Bernie Haag passed along some surf news from the Long Beach area. Schoolies remain in good supply along beaches in the area and Bernie emphasized that most of the fish are being taken right in the wash. Teen-agers Bill Callahan, Chris Haag and Guy Fitzimmons did a good job on the bass during the week using popping plugs, RedFins and bucktails. Some big fish coming off of the rock piles on plugs and bait.

Hayes of **The Store** at Oak Beach spoke of some big blues and an occasional bass on bait along the Cedar and Gilgo shorefront. One caster took a 38 lb. striper Friday night on an eel at Cedar and the Sore Thumb produced some big weakfish for a handful of anglers tossing live snappers during the middle of last week.

Noel Kaupauff confirmed Hays' report of big blues along the Gilgo shore line. Noel knew of fish at Robert Moses as well. Bait has been the ticket for the big choppers with live eels, bunker chunks and mackerel fillets allproducing at one time or another. Robert Sihler of Massapequa weighed in a 16 lb. 4 oz. chopper taken on an eel, while Jason Colby of Long Beach put what to my knowledge is the biggest chopper of the season on the beach. His 22 lber. also fell for a live eel.

Other than a pair of schoolies taken from the Fire Island surf, Dave Canale of the **J&R Sport Shop** in Oakdale didn't have much in the way of local surf news. Then, again, he had more reason to be concerned with the same stretch of Moriches shorefront which produced George Dudek's first surf fish. It seems that on Tuesday, Dave decided to introduce his wife Audrey to surf casting. Arriving at the beach at 5:15 p.m. and lobbing out a live eel for his wife to tend to, Dave proceeded to involve himself with some plugging off to the side. To make another long story short, Audrey had her first surf fish ever on the beach by 5:30 p.m. Taken on 10 lb. test, the 30 lb. striper prompted Audrey to remark "So what's all this fuss about surf fishing being so difficult?"

According to Thom at **Speck's Tackle Shop** in Shinnecock there's been some action with big blues on bait, swimming plugs and tin from the inlet east along the Southampton ocean front. Louis James checked in a 16¾ lb. blue which he took on an eel near the town beach. An occasional bass is mixed with the blues and Thom had heard that a few school bass are now being taken at the outflow of Cold Spring pond in Peconic Bay on eel worms.

Johnny Kronuch told me from his landmark tackle shop, that action has been steady although most of it has been concentrated up front. Some of the fish weighed in recently included a 27 lb. bass for Ron Johnson of the Farragut Striper Club,a 25 lber. and 2 21s for John Skidmore, 20 lb. bass and 8 weaks for Chip Albion and bass of 21 and 20 lbs. for John Dietz. John, along with his brother Guy accounted for 25 weakfish in addition to the two bass in a couple of nights of casting. The biggest fish to come out of the area recently was a 39 lb. bass taken by Ken Van DerLaske on Saturday night. Ken took the big striper in Scotts. Saturday night saw mostly weakfish come out from under the Light and while Johnny had not spoke to anyone of Sunday night's action, I received word from a friend who was under the Light Sunday and described good bass action with several fish in the thirties as well as many lesser fish littered among the rocks. Weaks were mixed with the bass also on Sunday.

North Shore

From his City Island tackle shop, Gregg said that the lively school bass action which had been fairly consistent since the springtime had slowed somewhat. Orchard Beach Lagoon and Turtle Cove still managed to produce a few schoolies however. No big blues in the area this week.

A good showing of school bass spread from Center Island to the mouth of Hempstead harbor said Dave of the **Glen Cove Sport Shop**.

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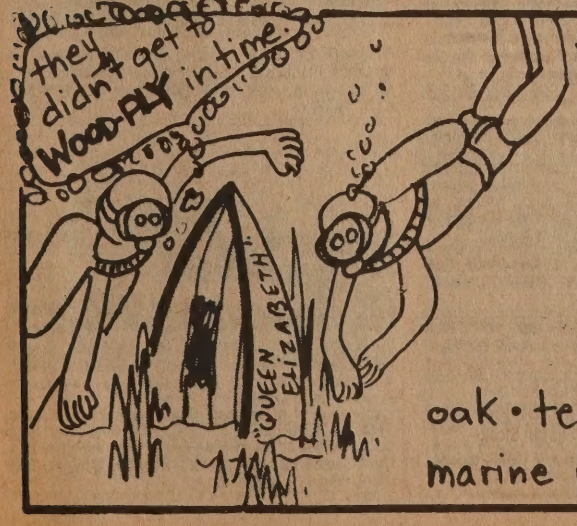

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REAL ESTATE

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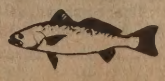

Sam Arbeeny shows the 16 lb. 12 oz. blue he took on a bunker at Staten Island. Photo courtesy of J. F. Tackle.

While many of the bass are shorts, fish up to 8 lbs. are mixed amongst them. Popping plugs, jointed Rebels and RedFins all working well on the schoolies.

George Valentine relayed word of some bluefish action with fish to 7 lbs. hitting poppers at Lilco and occasionally at Caumset. George, who runs **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** said that some school bass are being taken on rebels and Eel Worms in the vicinity of Lloyds Point. This, too, is primarily evening action.

Makamah, Sand City, and Crab Meadow have all been having their moments with 5-6 lb. class blues according to Tom of **Bowmans Tackle Shop** in Northport. Tube lures such as Mr. Twisters and Tri-Fin Eel Worms have been especially effectivw but fish are also taken on popping plugs and tin.

Tommy told me from the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** that blues in the 6-9 lb. class have been putting in appearances along the local shore front. Plugs tin and bait have all been effective at one time or another, with some big choppers being taken on chunk bait near the Shoreham power plant. School bass up to 7 lbs. taking RedFins and Rebels during the evening from Wading River east to Roanoke Point, according to Tom.

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